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29. In order to improve a country's education system, young students should be allowed to openly criticize their teachers during class time.

Do you agree with this?

What are some other ways education systems could be improved?

In the times that we live in, open-mindedness and informality are considered more important than obeying value systems. Thus, we hear a suggestion from some quarters that students should be allowed to criticize their teachers openly, during class time. I do believe in open mindedness but I disagree with the viewpoint presented here.

If students were given the permission to criticize teachers during class time, first of all this could be used as a tool by disinterested students to waste precious teaching time. Secondly, learning can only occur when there is a feeling of respect for the teacher and with such openness there would be loss of respect and the teaching environment would be thereby spoilt. Thirdly, students are sometimes too young to grasp the intention of the teacher or the need of the subject being taught. In such a situation the criticism would not be of any help as it would only be a misguided judgment.

On the other hand, people who advocate such openness in the classroom say that this can make the relationship between the teacher and the student friendlier. However, I believe that if the teachers are well trained, they know the psychological aspects of teaching young children and thus, our education environment would be better served. Also, in the event of receiving some unwelcome behaviour from a teacher, there could be a system in place where the student or a group of students is allowed to submit a written complaint to the principal or any other authority that can then look into the matter and resolve it responsibly.

To conclude, even though the system of open criticism may appear democratic, I opine against this method considering its possible drawbacks.

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30. It is observed that most governments pay a lot of money for the art projects. For instance, there are more and more paintings and sculptures seen in public places. Some people say that it is wrong and governments should spend more money on other important things of public interest.

Do you agree or disagree?

Owing to the emphasis given to the aesthetics of our living environment, governments these days spend more money in improving the appearance of various parts of cities. We can see paintings, sculptures, carvings and many more artistic objects on display at crossroads, intersections and at different public places. This development is good, provided that it does not come at the expense of essential needs.

Such projects and artistic monuments are the call of the hour. First, tourism industry is promoted by almost all countries. To attract tourists, such sculptures and artistic monuments in public places are often useful. Second, they always remind us of our culture and the value of art. This is indeed helpful because they work as a bridge between us and our cultural values. In addition, they also help children in staying connected to the arts. Finally, such monuments also provide employment to many people who are involved in their design, construction and maintenance.

On the other hand, such artistic projects are often very expensive to build and to maintain. Governments have to allocate funds not only for the project but for its maintenance also, which, in turn, becomes more expensive. Next, almost all countries require funds for essential needs like providing better healthcare, infrastructure, education and other facilities to their citizens. It seems awkward if a citizen of a country does not have basic health care or primary education and the government is occupied in spending on artistic projects.

Finally, I believe that allocating funds for artistic projects is indeed good as it makes our living environment more aesthetic. However, such expenses must be avoided if vital services in the country are not properly developed.

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31. Air travel is responsible for a lot of pollution in our environment. Some people think that prices of airplane tickets should be increased in order to reduce air traffic.

Do you agree or disagree?

It is indeed an inevitable truth that air planes cause immense amount of air and noise pollution. This adds to the woes of global warming and its possible detrimental consequences. However, raising prices of air tickets to reduce air travel seems highly illogical.

There are many reasons why airfare hike will not suffice the purpose of reducing pollution created by flights. First, air travel is an indispensable mode of commutation which is now an integral part of our life. It is an essentiality for corporate executives, politicians and those who live or have relatives abroad or in other provinces. Second, air travel is used by the affluent class of the society. Therefore, a price hike in air travel would hardly hinder them from using it.

Third, these days, there are millions of people worldwide who earn their living from the airline industry. Hence, reducing air traffic will certainly mean that many of them shall lose their jobs. Finally, practically, it is not possible for any government to take such an action because of the laws and corporate freedom that most countries have implemented these days.

On the other hand, some short-sighted people argue that ^{cheaper} dearer air travel will help in reducing pollution caused by airplanes. They say that increased cost of air travel will compel people to search different options and this will help in a reduction of air flights. They also add that cost hike will ultimately result in only genuine flyers, which is a desirable situation from the environmental point of view.

In conclusion, there are chances that a few travellers may not opt for flights if the prices are higher, however, considering the benefits and its role in today's globalized world, this idea will not bear good fruits for anyone.

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32. Public libraries provide a large collection of books to read. Some people argue that they should also provide other hi-tech facilities like computers, internet, CDs and DVDs.

Do you agree or disagree with the statement?

Technology has now penetrated almost all segments of life these days. All facilities and services are now incorporating technology in different intensities. Users of public libraries should not be excluded from getting benefits of technology.

It is indeed desirable to introduce hi-tech facilities like computers, internet, CDs and DVDs in our libraries. First, users come to the library to read books and to gain knowledge. Many a times it happens that they may not get adequate resources on various subjects. In such instances, the internet becomes extremely useful. Users can search the net and can find out detailed information on almost any topic.

Secondly, these days, we can see that the world of publication has now changed and many books are being converted to CDs and DVDs format. In addition, books, documentaries and other useful reference materials are now being published in digital form. What is more, handling, maintaining and storing digital media is way easier than books. Lastly, the life of such material is often longer than books.

However, some people argue that a library should not offer such hi-tech facilities as many users of libraries are elderly people who are not tech-savvy and hence cannot use such facilities. Moreover, they say that such facilities increase cost of handling and subscription fee shall thereby increase.

Finally, I think, library's prime function is to offer material for reference and enrichment of knowledge of the people of society, irrespective of the form of materials. If the call of the hour suggests that hi-tech facilities should be included, a library ought to provide them to serve the community in a better way.

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33. It is a fact that technological innovation is bringing about rapid changes and retraining becomes a lifelong necessity for most employees. Thus,

some people say that industry should take over more responsibility for education to have competent future employees.

Do you agree or disagree?

In today's world, education has become a lifelong process for most people. We see new innovations almost every day and to incorporate those changes, people should be trained properly in order to extract desired benefits out of those innovations. This is the reason why it is often argued that industry should take over more responsibility for education. However, to me, it seems irrelevant.

Industries should not take more responsibility of education in the context of lifelong training of employees. First, most employees are already trained and educated in their tertiary or vocational education institutes. Thus, they only need updates or short crash courses on newer developments. Secondly, it is the duty of the employees to keep themselves abreast of latest developments and thus prove that they are indispensable for the organization.

Thirdly, industries spend millions on training their employees as they find fresh graduates unemployable and hence they are trained thoroughly before they start their work. Here, it is often argued by industrialists that it is the responsibility of governments to increase employability of fresh graduates by bringing required changes in the education system.

However, some people argue that industries must contribute in educating candidates. First, they say that industries make maximum use of skills that are learned by today's student because that student will be a future employee. Second, they also suggest that if industries take responsibility of education, they can bring desired changes in the system, which will reduce their on-the-job training costs. Finally, they assert that it is one of the ways to contribute to the society.

All in all, I strongly believe that the context of lifelong training of employees is not the responsibility of industries alone and thus industries may limit their role in imparting education to students in schools and colleges.



34. It is seen that awareness about environmental problems is very low among the younger generation in most countries. Some people argue that environmental awareness must be added as an essential subject in all courses in colleges and schools across the world.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this argument?

It is indeed unfortunate that today's youngsters are not really well informed about environmental issues. I strongly assert that this ought to be reversed by imparting knowledge about this extremely important issue to all school and college goers.

There are numerous reasons why environmental education for all is essential. Firstly, understanding climatic problems at an early age makes children sensitive towards the same and when they grow up, they can stand for its protection whenever required. Secondly, it is often observed that ignorance is the prime cause behind most environmental problems and if children and teenagers are properly educated about climatic problems, we can reduce sources of pollution to a great extent.

Thirdly, we all know that prevention is the best cure and we can certainly prevent the occurrence of environmental hazards, which otherwise might happen sooner or later due to immense pollution and global warming. Finally, we study computers because we will have to use it; we study science and maths because they have practical applications in our life. Now, how can we not study about the environment based on which our entire humanity exists?

However, some short-sighted people might argue that students these days have to bear a lot of burden of other subjects. They also add that studying about atmospheric problems at an early age is boring and we should not make education undesirable for youngsters and children.

In conclusion, I strongly assert that we must teach about environmental issues to each and every student at primary, secondary and tertiary levels.



35. Whilst studying abroad provides an opportunity to broaden one's experience, it also presents the danger of negative influences from the host culture.

How far do you agree or disagree with the statement?

Studying abroad is the flavour of the present era. Educational institutions receive international students from many countries. In my opinion, concerns of adverse effects of local culture on international students do not hold ground.

Students go abroad with a vision to study and acquire better quality education. Many a times, they have to pay a very high fee which is very difficult for them or their parents to manage. This brings about a sense of sincerity in them and negative influences are warded off. Next, staying in a foreign country makes students more tolerant towards the host culture and this, in turn, enhances their understanding of different cultures. Consequently, they become even more aware of good and bad in both cultures and can thereby become better world citizens.

Thirdly, students often stay in close touch with their families back home by way of internet, telephones etc. What is more, they also become friends with the students of their home country. All these factors ensure that they do not forget their goals and they do not go off track.

However, some people argue that the countries where international students go may have a free and bold culture. They assert that when a student from a conservative culture goes to a country where the level of freedom is very high, he or she is likely to come under negative influences of host culture. There is a possibility of there being one or two who do get misled but this cannot be taken to describe a general pattern.

In conclusion, I opine that international students come in close contact with the foreign culture and they do adopt useful aspects of it. However, most of them do not come under any kind of negative influence from the host culture.

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36. Nowadays people have to work for longer hours under stressful conditions.

Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Suggest the ways by which the job conditions can be improved.

Working conditions in today's corporate world are highly demanding for almost all employees and the pressure of better performance is making life difficult for many workers across all sectors. I agree that in the present, people have to work longer and under highly stressful conditions.

There are many reasons to support this. First, almost all employees work toward certain targets set by their higher management. All companies are in the league to outperform their peers and to do this; they want their employees to put in better than their best. All conditions of achievement of a target cannot always be kept under control and therefore in the process there are times when employees have to work much more than their stipulated hours every day. Such work load is very stressful. Next, there are deadlines to many projects and in that sense not only the quality of the work but the time in which the same is executed also becomes important. This adds to the pressure immensely.

To address this problem, there are some solutions. One of them is that companies must limit working hours of all employees between 10-12 hours per day. This will give them adequate time to relax and to recharge themselves. Next, targets set by the management must be screened in the light of their viability. If targets are too difficult for the employees to achieve, frustration develops, which leads to a decline in performance. Finally, there has to be some legislation to support the employees to protect them from the exploitation they go through because of extended working hours.

All in all, I admit that we are in such an era where longer working hours and the pressure to deliver specific results have become an inevitable part of our work environment. However, with certain actions, we can limit the stress at work.

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37. Some people think that men and women have good expertise only in particular fields. This means men are better at doing certain jobs and women are better at doing some other jobs.

Do you agree or disagree with the statement?

Since our existence, we have been dividing mankind into two genders in countless ways. Ability of handling of different kinds of work by different genders is one of those ways of differentiation. However, with better awareness and education, it is proving to be untrue.

Today, both genders are capable of doing almost everything with great efficiency. To begin with, we can see that women are taking active part in the socioeconomic scenario now and doing really well in most jobs which were once perceived to be for men only. For example, engineering, technology, marketing, management and many more industries are now served efficiently by women. In the same context, we can see men are also doing well in areas which were once believed to be for women only. For example, parenting, housekeeping, hospitality industry, nursing, teaching etc. are now diligently nurtured by many capable men. All this has happened because of widespread awareness through education.

However, some conservationists still argue that men and women are respectively better at doing only specific jobs and not all. They say women are physically weaker than men and must work under consideration of their physical limitations. They also suggest that men are not as good care takers as women are and hence they should stay away from such jobs because nature has assigned specific duties to both genders to complement each other.

Finally, I completely disagree with the argument that men and women are better at doing specific jobs only. Thanks to today's education system such hypothetical boundaries have been erased between two genders and we have got a sense of equality to all humans on this earth, which, I think, is very important for the overall growth of the human race.



38. In today's societies, young people need more freedom to learn and explore the world on their own. Older people, on the other hand think that youngsters need to learn from their suggestions and experiences.

Do you agree or disagree?

We live in a world that is constantly changing and developing. To keep the world in this flux, we need fresh eyes, which explore the world on their own without any preconceived idea. Hence, I think the expectation of today's youth of more freedom in this context is well justified.

There are ample reasons to support this. To begin with, teaching methods and content and patterns of delivering the same keep changing regularly. In this process, they develop radically in a generation's time. Now, in this scenario, when elders give suggestions, they are often based on their experience, beliefs and findings. However, many a times, their suggestions do not confirm to present day modes of learning and the new information available.

Moreover, today's education system makes youngsters more adventurous and prompts them to learn things on their own rather than being dependent on others for their learning. For example, if the likes of Bill Gates or Dhirubhai Ambani had followed the conservative advice of their elders, companies like Microsoft and Reliance would not have existed.

On the other hand, some argue that following suggestions of elders makes youth safe and secure. They also add that youngsters are vulnerable and may adopt improper directions in life, if not guided properly. Finally, they also say that old people are more experienced about life and hence their views are useful and more mature.

All in all, I do not deny the fact that suggestions of elders are indeed useful for youngsters. However, I strongly feel that for the comprehensive development of youngsters, they ought to be given the freedom they desire in order to make sure that more innovative, creative and intellectual citizens come to live in this world



39. **Cooking food at home is a waste of time. Fast food restaurants help in living a modern and less stressful life.**

Do you agree or disagree with the statement?

We live in such an era where almost everything is available at our doorstep within minutes. Fast food home delivery services are also available across the globe. We can order almost anything and it can be at our home in no time. However, this does not mean that cooking food at home is wastage of time and energy.

Homemade food is far better than fast food. First, food cooked at home is always better, fresh, superior in quality and to the taste of family members. Second, food cooked at home has its own history of flavours and recipes which helps members to strengthen the bonding between each other.

Third, food cooked at home is often economical compared to fast food if the cost is calculated on daily basis. Finally, fast foods often contain high calories and fewer nutrients compared to homemade food which offers a wide range of nutrients and vitamins.

On the other hand, some people say that cooking at home is time consuming and should be replaced by fast food. They add that lifestyle today has become so fast that cooking food at home hinders other work and is a waste of time. They also argue that if good quality of food is available at a certain cost, cooking the same at home is not a good idea.

In conclusion, I assert that cooking food is not a waste of time at all. It helps us to stay healthy and energetic and strengthens family ties. Fast food is an alternative and is not a viable daily routine. It can be a break from the everyday home food in terms of taste but nothing more. It can never replace homemade food.

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40. **Some people think that modern inventions have more problems as compared to their benefits.**

Do you agree or disagree?

Inventions are always carried out to give comfort, facility and convenience to the people. However, many a times it is seen that these inventions create huge problems, as well, for the world, thereby raising a question whether they are really beneficial or not. Discounting a few exceptions and applications, I think modern inventions are indeed helpful to the people.

Those who say modern inventions have more problems come up with the following arguments. First, they say that it's modern technology that gifted us nuclear bomb which was used to kill millions of people in WW2. They are factually right, but they are forgetting the original intention behind inventing nuclear energy. We all know that it was meant to generate electricity from nuclear fusion. Now, if we instead invent bombs for massacre, it is our mistake and the invention cannot be blamed for it.

Secondly, they add that today's inventions are largely responsible for global warming and ozone layer depletion. They may have a point if we consider burning of fossil fuels in the process. Yet, modern day innovations actually do not play any direct role in harming the environment but it is our irresponsibility which is accountable for it.

Lastly, they assert that innovations like computers and internet have created a lot of problems for the youth today. Overuse of social networking sites, hacking, viruses, credit card scams are all a result of these. This is true but these facilities are meant to support human life and if some miscreants misuse them, we should try and control that rather than blaming the innovation.

Finally, I must say that misuse of innovations has created a myth that they have more problems than benefits. However, that does not imply that modern innovations are absolutely troublesome.

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41. **Air travel is preferred by rich people only. Majority of the people receive no benefits from the development of air travel as an industry.**

Do you agree or disagree?

Air travel, apart from being an important mode of long distance journeying has always

been a fascinating and exciting experience for humans. Initially, it was exclusive and expensive and out of reach of the common man and so it was considered to be a facility for the elite class only. However, stating that its advantages have remained limited to the rich class does not appear to be true.

Employment is the first reason why air travel has given its benefits to almost all classes of people. As an industry it provides immense direct and indirect opportunities to all sections of the society i.e. right from pilots, cabin crew, engineers, airport support staff etc. to loaders and technicians, ticket booking agents and even cab drivers. Most of these people may not fly regularly but earn their bread from it.

Moreover, air travel has now expanded its wings to include the middle class people as well. This has been possible because of increased competition amongst airlines and as a result, the end user is able to get a better deal. Hence, these days, many middle class people are increasingly opting for air travel.

On the other hand, some people argue that due to increased input costs and other expenses, air tickets are getting more expensive and hence air travel might just suit the upper strata of the society and so they believe that other people of the society are least advantaged by the aviation industry.

Conclusively, gone are the days where flying in an aeroplane was a rare, exclusive and only-for-the-rich kind of thing. According to me, air travel helps not only the rich class but all other classes of the society and hence I disagree with the statement given.

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42. Many people believe that the most important things in life are free – they could not be bought because they are invaluable.

How far do you agree or disagree?

According to me, the most important things in life are those without which we cannot survive and grow. Hence, in that context, I think the statement holds valid ground.

These invaluable things cannot be bought by money. First, let us consider air, water and land. Without air, it is next to impossible for any living species to survive on this earth.

This is equally true for water and for land because, without them we cannot find the basis to exist.

Secondly, the love and emotional support that we get and we share with our loved ones can never be valued in terms of money. Finally, the religious, cultural and spiritual heritage that we have received from our ancestors works as a guide for us to live our life in a peaceful, progressive and sacred way. This heritage has come to us as a gift and can never be bought or reproduced by money.

On the other hand, some materialistic people argue that today, we can buy all comforts with money which are important in life. They also add that emergency life support services and systems which help save lives are bought by money and have saved countless lives. Lastly, they add that money gives us the power to buy materials which in turn impart a sense of achievement and happiness.

In conclusion, I do admit that money gives us freedom to buy luxuries which can make us happy momentarily but it is negligible compared to the love and happiness we get from our family, religious and social systems and the natural resources. Thus, I completely agree with the statement that the most essential things in life cannot be purchased by material wealth.

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43. Some people feel that certain workers like nurses, doctors and teachers are undervalued and should be paid more, especially when other people like film stars and company bosses are paid huge sums of money that are out of proportion to the importance of the work they do.

How far do you agree or disagree?

It is an undeniable fact that doctors, nurses and teachers offer important contributions in today's society. Hence, it is argued that they are underpaid compared to celebrities and CEOs and should be treated more fairly. The argument holds ground yet the solution is not that simple.

What a certain profession gets paid is decided by multiple factors operative in the economy

of a place. One important factor amongst these is that the value of a service is not decided upon the morality of its character but upon its demand. Films and media are a sector which most people watch to escape the drudgery of their life and to emulate these celebrities to feel that they too can touch the stars. Thus, the entertainment industry owing to its great demand is a big-budget and high-profit venture.

Secondly, entrepreneurship not only earns capital but creates it and therefore it sets its own standard of the price its services demand. Nurses, teachers etc. are trained professionals who come through a certain course of learning and start a job. The creativity inherent here is much less than the security promised. Thus, there is no doubt that company bosses have greater say in what they should be paid as compared to these professionals.

Finally, a profession cannot demand a price- it needs to command it. With the same degree two doctors can have very different career graphs. So, though as a general pattern, a profession may be paid less than the other but within its fold it is possible to rise to a higher grade with one's own perseverance.

In conclusion, no strict rules can ever be laid down with respect to the cost of services of a certain profession however noble or essential it may be. Thus, I disagree with the argument given.



44. Some people think male leaders always lead us to violence and conflict. Compared to them, female leaders are better because they have given us a well governed and peaceful society.

Do you agree or disagree?

If we closely observe the course of history and review large scale violent events and conflicts, we can see that all such events were led and even motivated by male leaders. However, blaming the entire masculine gender for the same and labelling all males as incompetent or violent leaders is not a wise notion according to me.

There are many reasons why the entire male population should not be blamed for being

blood thirsty. To initiate with, since the beginning of social system, man has been the bread earner and hence he had to face challenges that prevailed outside the home. Consequently, whenever anyone tried to attack or dominate it was the male who fought for the rights and independence. In this context, it is obvious that the male has both faced the perils and even sacrificed his life for reasons of liberation and freedom.

Moreover, according to history, there have been very few female leaders and rulers and they too were also prone to violence and domination over other countries and states. There are pertinent examples of the queen of England and the queen of Egypt in this regard who suppressed thousands and even claimed countless lives to fulfil their ambitions.

On the other hand, barring a handful of women leaders, history does not give adequate data to analyse and to reach a conclusion that women leaders always create a peaceful society. In addition, the world has not seen any great war or conflict post World War 2 and most female leaders we know have come into prominence after that era.

Finally, even though the feminine gender is known to be more peace loving and not prone to inflicting violence and provoking conflicts, I firmly believe that the male race cannot be held entirely responsible for leading humankind towards disputes and violence.



45. Some people believe that schools should only teach subjects which are beneficial to children's future career and therefore other subjects such as music and sports are not important.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

In this era of globalization, competitiveness is considered as an essential virtue for the financial growth of individuals and societies. This is the reason some people assert that we should eliminate non-academic subjects like music and sports. However, they fail to understand that these subjects are vital to the overall development of children.

There are ample reasons which confirm that non-academic subjects must not be re-

moved from the school curriculum. To begin with, subjects like sports give exercise to children, which is much needed for their physical growth. In addition, they can learn a bunch of practical life skills like interacting with others, team spirit, sportsmanship, planning, envisaging and so on. Hence, such activities are a boon for them.

Next, subjects like music and arts help students to broaden their horizons of creativity. They learn to be creative, to visualise and to relax. These subjects are of extreme importance because children are overburdened by academic studies. They get relaxation from such creative and artistic activities. On top of it, teaching music and sports in school days hones the innate talent of gifted children and paves way for a famous artist or sportsman of tomorrow.

On the other hand, some people say that non-academic subjects are not necessary because students get admission in higher studies or get jobs on the basis of their marks in academic subjects only.

To sum up, I do admit that academic subjects are always more important. However, that does not imply that we should limit the overall development of children and deprive them of sports and music. I strongly oppose the argument that non-academic subjects should be removed from the school syllabus.



- 46. The problem of obesity is becoming a serious issue all over the world. Some people argue that the price of fattening foods should be increased to reduce the growth of this problem.**

Do you agree or disagree?

Overweight people are commonly seen everywhere in today's world. Consequently, diseases and disorders due to obesity are on an all time high and they keep mounting upwards every day. To curb this, some assert that the food that increases lipid levels should be made more expensive. However, this is not an ideal solution to this problem.

There are many reasons why rising prices of high calorie foods cannot solve the problem of obesity. First, we should look at the reasons behind obesity. Most people live a

lifestyle where they have to sit on a chair throughout the day, in air-conditioned offices. This practically eliminates scope of any physical exercise from their life, which leads to weight gain. In addition, science has proved that overstress and irregular work patterns result in over eating and digestion related problems. Both these factors also lead to a rise in body weight.

Secondly, these days, prices of all commodities are rising and yet their consumption has not declined. The irony is, consumption of food containing higher fats is more in affluent classes, who are not going to be affected by any increment in cost of those foods. Finally, unreasonable rise in prices of food items may create inflation and cause several economic problems for the governments.

On the other hand, some people present a point that upping the cost of fat boosting foods may lead the consumers to think twice before buying the item. Hence, less consumption will certainly reduce calorie intake in the people and will help them in staying in shape.

All in all, some assistance in reducing obesity may be gained by raising prices of fatty foods. However, looking at the reasons behind rise in obesity and adverse consequence on economy, I opine that it is not a wise decision.



- 47. Recent studies have shown that overweight people tend to eat 'junk foods' that are high in unhealthy fats. Some people argue that an increase in the price of such foods will serve as a deterrent and thus reduce the number of overweight people.**

Do you agree or disagree?

There is no doubt that societies around the world are trying to find a solution to unhealthy weight gain caused by consumption of junk foods. One solution that is put forth is that the prices of such food items should be increased to decrease their popularity. I completely disagree with this idea.

Firstly junk food like burgers, chips, pizza, soft drinks etc. are mostly consumed by

people who are financially well off. Increasing prices would have no effect on them at all. Secondly, eating junk food is almost like an addiction as the body craves for these empty calories once it has gotten used to them. So, even if some people do find it expensive they still would want to buy it. Thirdly, increasing prices may have some negative effects on the economy of a country as all business is interrelated.

It is true that an expensive item does make the consumer think twice but I believe it can never bring a total solution to the problem. In my experience only when people- young or old, understand the harmful effects such food has on their body they try to reduce its intake. For example, I loved to have an aerated drink every day during summers but only when I became sluggish in my sports class I realized I had to give up this habit. My friend stopped eating French fries when his doctor told him that his asthma attacks were a result of overeating which caused unhealthy weight gain and reduced his stamina.

To sum up, considering the reasons behind the increased intake of fast food, I believe that increasing the prices of junk food is not going to decrease their consumption.



- 48. Traditional lifestyles of many people in developing countries are attracting increasing amount of international tourists. Such tourism discourages modernisation in these areas.**

Do you agree or disagree?

It is indeed a fact that vernacular cultures and lifestyles are a major attraction for international tourists. They visit different corners of the world to see traditional lifestyles of the people of developing countries. It is often argued that such visits do not let a tourist spot modernise. This observation seems accurate to a great extent.

There are many reasons behind this. First, tourism has now become a major contributor of foreign revenue for developing countries. When international tourists come, they spend their money to see the traditional culture and lifestyle. Visitors come with curiosity and for the sake of maintaining their interest such areas need to stay as they have been because if they change and develop, they may lose valuable earnings from interna-

tional visitors. Secondly, most people in such areas have a strong attachment to their culture as they are identified with that. Thus, they also think that if they modernise, the existence of their tradition will be jeopardized.

Finally, it is often observed that even if some people want to bring in transformation to facilitate the development of their community, they are often suppressed by businesses that rely heavily on foreign visitors.

However, certain areas cannot develop for other reasons as well and tourism cannot be blamed for the same. Some areas are too isolated or underprivileged and thus, governments of these areas need huge sums of money for the required transformation. In addition, due to lack of infrastructure, no industrial development takes place, which, otherwise is capable of modernising any area.

All in all, it seems true to me that international tourism is one of the main reasons why areas with traditional lifestyle and culture cannot modernise themselves.



- 49. Some people believe that teenagers should be required to do unpaid community work in their free time. This can benefit teenagers and the community as well.**

Do you agree or disagree with this point of view?

Working for the society is always good and rewarding for all. Thus, the idea of inspiring teenagers for voluntary work can result in a win-win situation for both – the society and the teenagers.

There are ample benefits of teenagers volunteering for the community in their leisure time. First of all, teenagers learn to interact with a variety of people. By doing so, they can develop virtues like teamwork, compassion, interactive ability and so on. In addition, they develop tolerance and become considerate to all the classes and races of people in their community. Secondly, teens can attain sense of achievement and self worth by working for the society. This helps them to boost their confidence levels. Finally, teenagers develop deeper understanding of the culture, lifestyle and traditions of their own people.

On the other hand, there are certain drawbacks of the same as well. To begin with, such work is time consuming and within highly busy academic days, it is hard for school going teens to spare any time for volunteering. Moreover, teenagers are naive and vulnerable. Hence they can easily be drawn to illegal, improper and harmful activities. Such instances increase chances of their exploitation and they may fall victim to some criminal tendency. However, I think all such flaws are manageable with proper guidance and the backing of a legal framework.

In conclusion, I firmly believe that the notion of teenagers doing unpaid community work is indeed good. I would also like to add that proper monitoring and care ought to be exercised to avoid any untoward consequences.



50. Many museums across the world charge an entry fee from all visitors. Some people argue that entry to the museums should be free.

How far do you agree or disagree with this argument?

Museums are places where we can find antique and historical articles to see, discover and learn from. This place has immense importance and hence to maintain it, there should be some entry charges.

People who favour free entry to museums put forward the following arguments. First, they say that museums hold our history, so everyone should have the right to see those articles without paying. This argument looks convincing, however, free entry to the museum will certainly attract vagabonds who lack all seriousness and may even damage the articles. An entry fee is a deterrent for anyone who is not interested in the artefacts but comes in for other mischievous motives.

Secondly, they also assert that historical articles are public property and thus they should be freely accessible to all the people. But, they forget that making something freely available actually reduces its importance in the minds of people. They take it for granted and do not pay adequate respect to the hours spent in collecting and exhibiting articles.

Finally, they argue that governments fund museums for their maintenance and expan-

sion so they do not need to levy charges on the visitors. It is indeed true in some cases. However, it is not true always because maintenance of typical artefacts may be a tedious and expensive job which the government grant might not cover.

To conclude, though the argument of making free entry to the museums appears attractive, it is not feasible for the authorities to implement this in reality. Hence, I opine that museums should charge a token fee from all the visitors.



51. Today, there are a lot of websites providing news on the internet. Some people believe that these websites will totally replace traditional newspaper and magazines.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Both - the number of news websites and the number of internet users are swelling at a rocket speed these days. There are innumerable people who get most of their daily news from websites and this community is increasing in number every minute. However, I believe that this development will never be able to diminish the existence of newspapers and magazines.

There are many reasons why news websites cannot replace newspapers. First, newspapers are cheap, easy to handle and carry. We can take them anywhere with us and read. Secondly, many people in the world today are not familiar with computers and internet. This proportion will never be zero in the coming centuries because millions of people today hardly earn their everyday living. For them, computer use is simply out of question.

Thirdly, newspapers and magazines are more reader friendly as one can glance through a variety of items with a flip of pages as compared to the internet where one would have to open several windows. Also there are many other distractions online that might prevent one from a rich newspaper reading experience which a well edited and composed print media format offers.

However, users who depend on the news offered by the net are rising every day be-

cause they are benefited in many ways. One of them is that they get instant news updates from the website in any corner of the world. Some of them even offer video clip-pings of the event. Moreover, this material can be forwarded, downloaded and even printed for the future references.

To sum up, I admit that news websites are offering immense benefits to the users. However, they cannot cater to each and every person in the world, which implies that print media will survive on this earth.



- 52. Some people say that to solve today's global problems, every nation should have a good relationship with other nations.**

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

In this era of globalisation, many problems of one nation often spill over into other countries and continents. In this situation, it is almost essential for the countries to have good relations with each other so that they can take corrective measures in cooperation with each other at the international level.

Having a cordial relationship with other countries is highly desirable in resolving issues that affect various nations. For example, we all know that Australia is severely affected by Ozone depletion but research indicated that most activities of Chlorofluorocarbon emission take place in the USA. Now, Australia can influence USA to find a solution to prevent Ozone depletion only if they have good relations with each other.

Secondly, this helps countries to develop an international network where they can police antisocial elements and prevent terrorism from becoming a multi-national corporation. For example, cordial relationships between USA, Pakistan, Afghanistan, India etc. could mean that the problem of cross border terrorism can be curbed and the world would be saved from attacks such as the one on the world trade centre and at Mumbai.

On the other hand, some conservationists argue that developing relations with other countries to solve problems is not a useful step. First, they say that it is a time consuming process where the affected countries may have to suffer a lot if they entirely depend

on the other country. Second, they also say that rather than relying on others, each country should be independent and efficient enough for the solution of problems affecting the world.

Finally, I must admit that we live on this earth as neighbours of each other and we must take collective responsibility to resolve problems that exist at the global level and for the same, it is vital for countries to develop good relations with each other for the better future of our world.



- 53. Some people say that schools do not make enough efforts in teaching young people to look after their health and they add that schools should undertake health education more seriously.**

Do you agree or disagree?

In this era of satellite television and fast food, children are at a higher risk of diseases related to poor health or lack of nutrition. In this context, inadequate attention to health issues at school seems to be a contributing factor.

It would be excellent if schools pay more attention in imparting knowledge on healthcare to young pupils. To start, young children come to know the importance of preventive healthcare measures at a tender age. Consequently, they develop healthy habits, which, in turn benefits them as they can perform better at school in both academic and co-curricular activities. Second, they stay away from diseases and hence absenteeism at school is reduced. Moreover, they do not have to visit doctors frequently; this is indeed useful for parents and the government because the spending on child health care can thereby be reduced.

Finally, today's healthy child is tomorrow's healthy citizen; therefore, we can have a healthier society. This is of immense benefit to the whole world because healthier societies can grow better and can lead happier lives. On top of it, they give this heritage to their coming generations and hence, we can expect a disease free world in future.

However, some people say that schools are already under a lot of burden of teaching

academic, sports, arts and other co-curricular subjects. Hence, they cannot spend more time in imparting health education to young children. Next, they also assert that it is the responsibility of parents to teach healthy habits to their children.

In conclusion, I completely agree with the notion that schools should place health education at a high priority level because healthier kids are the true founders of tomorrow's healthier society.



54. It is a tendency of human beings that they copy from each other. This spreads the popularity of fashion, lifestyle and consumer goods and helps these industries to grow.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Imitating others is a deep, subconsciously rooted trait in human beings. Even as children we learn the first lessons by imitating. To copy is not only to get an idea about how to do a certain thing but it is also done to achieve a sense of belonging in a social context. I completely agree that such a tendency helps the growth of fashion, lifestyle and the F.M.C.G. industry.

When people are introduced to a new and innovative product, possessing it is a sign of upward mobility and in this race the industry benefits as the sales rise. Add to it the attraction of a film star promoting a product and there is even more craze and hype generated around the thing. Everyone wants to be identified with a celebrity and therefore they want things which the star has.

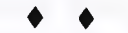
Secondly, copying others at times is also a sign of a product that has mass acceptance. When companies build a reputation over time about maintaining a certain standard of quality in the produced goods, people learn from each other about it and that is how the client base increases.

On the other hand, some think that there is no originality in copying others and hence they always search for newer things. Some may try to improvise on the trend and yet others may opt for very unique items. This tendency needs lots of experience, courage

and financial strength because the market usually supports products which have a mass appeal.

Finally, I second the notion that the tendency of imitating others helps the fashion and consumer goods industry to grow well. In the long run it also helps create a niche market for those who do not want to imitate.

* FMCG = Fast Moving Consumer Goods



55. Adults always say that life was better in their childhood and school days than it is now. Why do they say so?

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

It is indeed true that adults in almost all the societies complain that their childhood was superior than the life today's children live. There could be certain reasons behind such a thought but as a whole, their argument seems one sided.

There are many factors that compel today's adults to think like this. One of them is the tendency to psychologically associate the experiences of the lifestyle to our identity. Most of us do this and hence when the generation changes, there are many who cannot accept the change because that modern ways cannot be identified with the life that they had lived before a few decades. Next, with advancing age, the pace of learning declines and people lose their adaptability to fit themselves in the changing lifestyle. This is troublesome for many adults and forces them to think that the life during their childhood was better

Lastly, globalisation has influenced our lives tremendously. Today, no society can exist in an isolated manner as was possible in the olden times; the happenings of one affect the other as well. Thus, cultural notions are challenged frequently as you cannot shut your doors to the world. For example, oriental people think their culture is invaded by the western culture and occidental people think their economy is dominated by the skilled people of eastern countries.

However, as per my opinion, we live in a world which is continuously changing. We live in unending flux where nothing is permanent and in such a context, it is futile to label something as good or bad. We should accept the changes that come with time and do our best to move with them. Hence, the argument that life in the past was better is not acceptable to me.



56. The government spends enormous amount of money on renovations of old buildings in large cities. Some believe that this money is better spent on building new houses and road development.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this argument?

Infrastructure development and maintenance of old buildings are the two aspects that always perplex most governments across the globe. It seems that maintaining structures that have historical and cultural value for the society is essential. However, apart from that, governments' funds ought to be used in new development as well.

I see many reasons in support of new construction. First, the need for new infrastructural development is increasing everyday in all parts of the world owing to the needs of the people to travel and remain connected with other parts for varied reasons. Secondly, new construction lasts much longer compared to older ones. This is so because they are made up of modern, sturdy materials which have been tried and tested. In addition, they are constructed with the help of latest technology, which not only enhances their life but also offers an excellent example of contemporary architecture.

Thirdly, newer constructions are created by keeping the needs of the people and future trends in mind. Hence, they can facilitate their users in a far better manner compared to what older buildings can. Finally, better infrastructure always facilitates economic growth. Thus, it is the need of the hour for all the governments.

On the other hand, there are certain buildings that attract attention and need funds. Some buildings have religious, historical and cultural value that need to be carried forward for the next generation and so it is extremely important for the governments to

spend a large chunk of money for their restoration and maintenance.

In closing, I admit that certain constructions need to be maintained. However, apart from them, it is not sensible for the governments to spend their revenue on old constructions. I assert that new development should be given higher priority.



57. Olympic Games were very important and respected in the past. However, some people say that technological improvements have reduced the importance of Olympic Games in this 21st century.

Do you agree or disagree with this?

Olympic Games have been given paramount importance across the world since their beginning. To assume that the importance of Olympics is reduced because of technological advances is an improper notion according to me.

There are many reasons to support this. First, Olympics are now far better known and enjoyed than they were in the past because of the technological facility of live telecast. What is more, millions of people around the world watch these games and are bound to a common global stage. Secondly, with the help of improved technology, accurate measurement of performance of athletes is now possible. For example, we can now successfully measure hundredth fraction of a second and this enables us to conduct a higher grade of competition and deliver exact results with transparency and clarity for the participants and the viewers.

Thirdly, stricter surveillance and improved testing technology can prevent athletes from adopting illegal routes like drugs etc. Moreover, better security and safety systems keep criminals away and offer a tension free environment. Finally, sophisticated arrangements are now possible so that we can successfully organise games even under unpredictable weather conditions.

On the other hand, there are certain disadvantages of technological advances as well. Over and above the strength, agility and stamina of their bodies, athletes are now helped by body suits that cut friction, regulate temperatures and even affect the amount of

lactic acid produced in the muscles. Thus, any competition between athletes becomes meaningless if they have the ability to buy a technology.

In conclusion, I believe that technology is invented to support and facilitate human endeavour and its role in Olympic Games is no different. Though in some sports it might have reduced the element of challenge and fun, overall it certainly does not reduce the importance of Olympic Games.



58. When families have a meal together, it is considered as a social activity.

Do you agree that eating together is important to the people of your country?

It is said that man is a social animal. Humans like to share lots of things with others and eating together is one such activity. In my country a family meal is a joyous occasion and is accorded a lot of respect and importance.

Across all religions, ethnicities and communities eating together is a significant family event for everyone in my country. This is so for many reasons. First, by doing so, people meet each other and create warmth, togetherness and a sense of security. The stressful professional lives that we live in the present can give rise to a sense of loneliness and frustration at times. Meeting one's family and feeling accepted and loved takes away all the negativity. Secondly, all members seek and offer their opinions, experiences, solutions and assistance to each other on various problems or troublesome situations in life. Thirdly, there is inculcated a sense of tolerance for each other and group activity is fostered.

Finally, such activities always strengthen social bonds between the members of the family. Youngsters gain from the experiences of their grandparents while the latter are blessed with youthful energy in the presence of children. Thus, relationships are honoured and one is conscious of a sense of responsibility to the whole clan. Consequently, such familial bonding translates into a happy, safe society as well.

I firmly believe in the fact that eating together is indeed an important social activity,

which is highly respected and followed religiously by the people of my country. In my opinion it should be made one of the essential rituals in almost all societies across the globe.



59. It is observed that people these days spend large sums of money on clothes, hair care and other beauty products. Some people see it as a necessary expenditure whereas others see it as wastage of money.

How far do you agree or disagree with one of the arguments?

In this highly competitive era of 21st century, it has become indispensable for everyone to look good and presentable. Owing to the same, people spend enormous amounts of money on beauty care, garments and accessories. Such spending is often justified by many. However, such extravagant expenditure is not good in the long run for an individual or a society.

There are many reasons why a large sum of money incurred on aspects of vanity is not a good idea. First, such a tendency leads people to create an artificial identity that can be displayed to the world, which, in time may lead to severe psychological problems like split personality or even depression. Secondly, such cosmetic and superficial care is extravagantly expensive and creates a hole in one's pockets. At times, in a rush to spend money on looking beautiful and attractive, some youngsters adopt unlawful ways to earn money.

Thirdly, this has deep impacts on the social and cultural structure. As people live in a fallacy, they develop traits like lying, cheating and being jealous. Such tendency may lead to additional stress, tension and negativity in the society. Finally, excessive usage of beauty care products and treatments is indeed harmful to the skin and hair and may result in permanent damage to the body.

However, for some, looking attractive is essential. They say that to grow and flourish in this highly competitive era, one has to present oneself in an attractive manner in order to cast a good impression on people around. What is more, if we do not take enough

care of our appearance, the world will forget us and we shall lose our importance.

In conclusion, I admit that the idea of spending money behind body and hair care and clothing is not bad in its essence. However, squandering massive amounts of money, energy and time in their pursuit is a choice that will have dreadful consequences for the society.

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60. Some people believe that richness is an important factor when we consider helping others.

Do you agree or disagree with the statement?

It is a popular notion that money is a powerful tool when we want to help anyone and hence, it does hold great importance in providing the best possible aid to anyone in the world. In my opinion there are many other ways in which valuable help can be held out and money is not the only aid which one can offer.

There are ample reasons in support of my viewpoint. Firstly, everyone does not require financial assistance only. People do need helping hands to see them through tough times. For example, in cases of natural calamities like a tsunami or an earthquake, people need to be rescued, and what is required is disaster management and not financial help. When we offer physical help in saving a life, it is far more important than offering money.

The second important need is to help underprivileged, elderly or emotionally challenged people. I think money cannot offer much help in such cases. Those who need aid for education or basic health care or someone to talk to or in certain cases a shoulder to cry on cannot satisfy their needs with money. Finally, personal support requires spending quality time, which is the most precious thing to offer in this world.

On the other hand, some think money can be of paramount importance in helping others in various ways. We can give monetary support to those who need to access basic requirements like food, shelter, medicines, education and so on.

In conclusion, even though financial assistance can be hailed as a very important medium when we help others, I firmly believe that a helping hand in terms of personal support is far more valuable than money.

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61. Employers now tend to prefer employees with good social skills in addition to good qualifications. Social skills are getting more and more important compared to qualifications.

Do you agree or disagree?

It is indeed a fact that the world is getting smaller with the help of technology and the need of the hour is not only adequate qualification but also the ability to present ideas in a convincing manner and establish good relationships. In such a situation, social skills hold supreme importance. Companies are doing nothing wrong if they give equal importance to social skills and qualifications.

There are abundant reasons why social skills are getting more and more important. Firstly, irrespective of the type of industry, today's corporate world is completely interdependent i.e. all workers have to rely on others in order to complete their tasks successfully. Here, employees with good interpersonal skills come out as winners in most situations. Secondly, businesses today demand lots of communication amongst each other, with higher management and with people connected to the company. Better group skills will enhance smoother functioning and will result in better efficacy of the organisation.

Lastly, public skills are extremely important to establish a trusting client base and therefore there is no doubt that a person having good communicative skills performs better than other employees.

On the other hand, some might say that academic skills are extremely important and should be given top priority while hiring someone. They believe that it's the technical knowledge and qualification that makes someone eligible for the job. They also add that person with only civil skills may harm others and the profitability of the company in useless conversations.

In conclusion, I fully agree with the notion that the trend is shifting towards appointing people with greater social skills though the importance of educational qualification cannot be undermined. One without the other cannot deliver results.



62. Some people think that an employee should change his career or field of work at least once. However, others think that employees should never change their career and stay in one job for their entire lifetime.

Do you agree or disagree with the statements given?

A few decades before, being loyal to a job throughout one's career was an ideal situation for countless people. However, with the inclusion of technology and expansion in education and work practices, it seems almost impossible for any employee to stay glued to one field of work.

There are several reasons why changing the field of work is beneficial. Firstly, change in itself is challenging. It helps people to grow and encourages their ability to adapt. It also accelerates intellectual growth and skill development. Secondly, any change is a potential tool to open new avenues in work, which may lead to handsome revenue generation at the level of the organization and the individual.

Thirdly, any new dimension will also enhance inventions and innovations in the field of work, which further improves efficiency and quality of life for those who are involved. Finally, according to a survey, 4 out of 10 highly paid jobs in 2002 did not exist in 2012. It does not mean that those 4 jobs vanished; it means that new areas and work sectors opened that gained more income.

However, change has always created resistance in the minds of people. At times, it may give additional stress to the employees and some of them cannot withstand that pressure. In addition, changing the field often calls for skills enhancement, which can be a daunting task for many employees. Finally, those who cannot grow in the new area of work may succumb to it by falling victim to physiological distress or frustration.

To cap it up, I firmly believe that the entire world around us is in a flux. It keeps changing and hence, change is the only permanent thing in this world. Thus, I assert that employees ought to change their field or area of work whenever they get the right opportunity.



63. Some people say that working couples must equally share the household responsibility in all cultures across the world. However others simply do not agree with this view.

What side of the given views do you agree with?

It is obvious that both partners in a marriage have to work in today's fast paced and demanding life. However, such a situation has also created a need that both husband and wife should equally share the workload of the household. It is indeed the call of the hour according to me.

There are some strong reasons why I think the couple should support each other in household work. Firstly, it is quite evident that workload and working hours are increasing at the work place everywhere. In addition, challenges and stress at work are also rising to their all time highs in most workplaces. Now, in such a tough and demanding situation, it is nearly impossible for women to look after the house entirely on their own as in earlier times. In the ages past when women did not work the division of labour was very simple- house for the woman, office for man. But now with she having stepped into his domain he needs to step into hers.

Secondly, the true essence of life lies in sharing. If the woman is contributing with her efforts in earning for the family, she must be reciprocated by a helping hand in household responsibilities. Thirdly, men get an opportunity to become better human beings as they evolve an understanding of how the infrastructure of life is put together in the house.

On the other hand some people think that a woman is a natural nurturer and mother and the way she can set up and run a house a man cannot. There is no doubt that men and women have different instincts yet no task can be completely classified as meant for one or the other only.

Finally, I reaffirm my belief that men and women employed in full-time jobs should share the responsibilities of household chores.



- 64. Police in the UK do not keep guns with them. As a result some people feel that citizens are less protected, whereas others feel that it reduces overall violence.**

Do you agree or disagree?

It is the basic duty of police to protect the civilians from crime and to stop or prevent untoward incidents in the society by maintaining law and order. However so many of our legal codes are still traditional. I think the legislation should be changed and police should keep guns with them.

The people who favour that police should not keep guns with them present a few good arguments for it. Firstly, they argue that if police keeps guns with them they will be inspired to use it and this can lead to an overall increase in violence. This argument apparently looks good but in an era where criminals are using advanced weapons to commit crimes, if a policeman cannot protect himself, how can he possibly protect the civilians?

Secondly, they assert that by not keeping guns the police maintain the traditional and social environment of the UK and they can use other means to control criminals. This sounds fair; however nothing is permanent so the social climate is not constant as well. Criminals are changing their activities everyday and to cope up with them, police has to adopt new approaches to maintain law and order in the city.

Thirdly, they also say that police may misuse the weapons to settle their personal disputes with some innocent people. I admit this as a possibility. However the system can be made efficient enough to find out those who exploit their powers. Yet, we cannot allow 99% of people to suffer for the sake of this 1% possibility.

All in all, I firmly believe that prevention is better than cure. A weapon does inculcate fear in the minds of criminals and hence police in the UK must keep guns with them.



- 65. There are several factors that motivate people to stay in workforce. Among them, money is the most important reason/factor for the same.**

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It is an undeniable fact that almost all of us work or do jobs to earn money. The basic intention behind this is to sustain the supply of resources that we need to sustain a life. Hence, it is often argued that money is the most important factor for the people to stay in the workforce. To my mind such a notion is not incorrect.

It is indeed true that most of us work for the remuneration that we get in the form of a paycheque that comes to us at the end of the week or the month. Moreover, the salary also gives us a sense of being worthy because we can use that for our family's happiness and other needs. Furthermore, it is obvious that financial safety and growth are the most important aspects of any individual's life and owing to this I have seen people who stay in a job even if they are unhappy there. On top of it, some people are ready to take a job which obliges them to stay completely outside their comfort zone if they are paid more.

On the other hand, there is a niche segment of workers who do not have money as their first priority. There are people who work for less remuneration provided they get the opportunity to create, the comfort to work at their own pace and most importantly a sense of joy. In addition, factors like dignity, atmosphere at the workplace and the possibility to learn are more important than money for some people.

In conclusion, since money is one of the prime needs of all of us to survive and prosper in life, according to me, it is and it will be the most important factor for most workers to be committed to their respective workplaces.



- 66. Popular events like the football world cup and other international sporting occasions are essential instruments for easing tension as they aid the release of patriotic emotions in a safe way.**

Do you agree or disagree?

Since the existence of the first human societies, man has been dividing the world into warring factions based on regions, religions, races etc. Such divisionary policies have led to international disputes in modern times. Until recently humans used to settle such disputes by war. Nowadays international sports events have emerged as a safe and creative way to do the same.

International sporting events help in reducing tension between two countries or regions or races in so many ways. Firstly, they are organized in a grand manner and with a big pomp, thus, people come there basically to enjoy themselves. Secondly, in extending support for their home teams leads to a release of patriotic emotions without harming others and their sense of superiority is satisfied.

Thirdly, when such events are held, people of participating countries can meet each other and interact. This helps a lot in reducing tension as interaction is the first step in evolving tolerance. Next, sports teach sportsmanship- the better player always wins. This gives a chance to appreciate the good in others and recognise one's own weaknesses.

However, in some cases, such events may turn violent if people of a losing team cannot digest defeat or are teased in an extreme manner. But such occurrences are few and far and cannot undermine the positive effects of competitive sport.

Finally, I firmly believe that although there are some chances of violent reactions on part of the spectators, international sports events certainly help in decreasing sectarian tension. Next, this helps in making this world a better and peaceful place to live in.



67. Some people say that our culture and tradition are lost when they are shown to foreigners for the purpose of earning money. Whereas others state that we actually can save the culture and tradition by doing so.

Which opinion do you agree with?

Culture and traditions are the identity of an individual and that's why everyone has affection and respect for them. I think more diverse the culture and tradition the longer they can survive on earth. Thus, showcasing its qualities for the foreigners does not diminish it in any way rather helps it to grow further.

People who think that we lose our culture and tradition if we show them to the foreigners to get revenue put forward three arguments. Firstly, they say that by showing our culture we are exposing our strengths and weaknesses to them, and at times, our imperfections can be exploited by the foreigners. This according to me is more an imagination than an actual possibility. We can make the reverse come true if we exhibit our strengths thereby deeply influencing their minds.

Secondly, they assert that to showcase our culture and tradition for the purpose of earning money is a business and we have to modify the 'product' as per the demand of the customers. This leads to our culture being treated as a commodity. There is no doubt that professional concerns can bring in superficiality, yet in introducing our traditions to outlanders, we are actually creating an opportunity for our civilisation to diversify and become richer.

Finally, some advocates of culture and tradition also argue that foreigners may take active interest in them and may customise it as per their beliefs and convenience, which also leads to a deformity of the original culture. However, culture and tradition are lived and followed by people. The more people follow it, the longer it exists on this earth. For example, today so many western countries follow the principles of yoga and meditation.

All in all, I strongly believe that culture and traditions live in the minds of people. When we show them to others we can generate respect for them and thereby earn revenues that can help our culture and traditions to spread and last long on this planet.



68. The advantages of the spread of English as a global language outweigh its disadvantages.

Do you agree or disagree with the statement?

Many languages on this earth evolved with the growth of human civilization at multiple different sites that were disconnected to each other before the transport and communication revolutions took place. Now the world is interconnected and has become smaller so it is difficult to deal with such diversities and complexities of language. Hence, there is a need to tie populations of the world with the help of one global language. Presently, the English language seems to be doing this job.

There are some concrete reasons why the spread of English as a global language has more benefits. Firstly, when we have a common language, it becomes easier to communicate accurately and effectively. For example, in case of natural calamities like a tsunami or hurricanes that can affect more than one country, warnings of alert can be understood by all if communicated in English.

Secondly, new theoretical developments in the field of science and technology can be easily shared amongst all countries of the world if there is a common language in which they are conducted. Finally, the spread of English makes the world an easy and convenient place to access and live. This is a boon for those who travel and/or work for multinational companies.

However, some people argue that the spread of English has certain drawbacks. Many vernacular languages are dying because of it and this is not only a lingual loss but a cultural loss as well. Moreover, they also add that such invasion of English is a threat to the cultural and linguistic diversities that we have on the earth.

To conclude, it is true that the widespread usage of English as a global language dominates over local languages and their cultures. However, I think we need one common language for human betterment. Thus, I opine that the spread of English, as a global language has more benefits.



69. Some people believe that the use of animals for the purpose of experiments is cruel while others believe that it is necessary for the development of science.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the statement?

For centuries, the human being has always been exploiting natural resources for his betterment. As a part of development of science, many animals are used to carry out experiments. In my opinion it is an injustice to them and it is cruel.

There are many reasons to support this. First, every animal on this earth has an equal right to live with freedom. Captivating some animals for experiments is to snatch their freedom. Secondly, experiments lead to dangerous results including their death. In any case they suffer from immense pain. They are speechless hence they cannot express pain. This is indeed cruel because it is an offensive crime against nature.

In addition to this, every living animal has been given a specific role to play by the nature in ecosystem. When the animals are captivated, the eco-cycle of that area gets disturbed that has its own hazardous implications on the earth and human life.

However, some advocates of science argue that such experiments help in understanding so many things about them and their reaction to various substances help further the development of new medicines. They also assert that the current success of many medicines can be attributed to such experiments. Next, they say that science has also developed many vaccines for the safety of animals by experimenting on them.

Finally, according to me, although it is true that experiments on animals help scientists to develop more knowhow to serve the mankind and the animals, it is cruel to give pain to an innocent, speechless animal. It should be restricted only to the diseased animals or to selected species at least, with strict jurisprudence in order to prevent their exploitation.



70. It is observed that communication between family members in today's times is less as compared to the past. However, some people do not think so.

Do you agree or disagree?

Modern life varies enormously, as compared to the past. Today's life is hectic and busy, which has given rise to a fear that there is less communication amongst family members now. However, I feel today's family members communicate more with each other than ever before.

There are many reasons why communication between family members has improved than in the past. Firstly, today's families are small in size. In addition, they live in apartments that are compact as compared to the big houses in the past. There is more interaction with fewer people and a common space. Secondly, because of better education, today's parents have changed their roles. They are becoming friends of their children and caretakers of their elders. Thus, the atmosphere at home is more relaxed and conducive to openness and sharing.

What is more, technology like mobile phones and the Internet helps families to be in touch whenever and from wherever they want. Tiny details of each other's existence can be easily shared and though two members may be living thousands of miles apart yet they can feel connected and cared for.

However, some conservationists argue that today's family members live like strangers under one roof. They say that because of hectic working schedules, many family members cannot even talk to each other for days. Next, they assert that today's new generation spends more time watching TV and passing time outside or on social networking sites.

All in all, it is true that today's busy and stressful life could lead to a reduction in interaction between family members, but in my opinion that does not happen with a majority of people. According to me, the level of communication between family members now is better than in the past.



71. Some people believe that school students should only do homework every day. Others think children should get to do extra work to succeed at school.

How far do you agree or disagree with this topic?

The general perception of success at school for most parents is good academic performance only. The parents believe that this can be attained by doing homework rigorously. However, there are many skills that are essential to learn in order to achieve

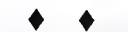
success and concentrating only on academic homework might compromise the development of the child.

If we wish that children acquire a variety of skills, then only doing homework is insufficient. The school needs to allocate many other kinds of tasks to students in the form of compulsory newspaper reading, making reports on parts of one's city, learning a musical instrument or a sport etc. Such activities are conducted within the school in some proportion, but by giving children tasks to do on their own shall be a better learning experience for them.

Second important aspect here is the imparting of social skills. Children need to be guided about their role in the family and the society. If household tasks are relegated to them by the school they shall take them more seriously as compared to the event where their mothers tell them to do things around the house. They also should be taught about how a society works and how they can contribute in bringing about positive changes like keeping their neighbourhood clean, spreading the message of education etc.

However, some people favour doing homework only. They assert that this revision and practice are important to understand all the fundamentals of a subject.

All in all, I strongly iterate that doing only homework is deficient to get success at school. According to me, extra work for the development of practical and psychological skills is essential for children to grow up into successful, all-round individuals.



72. Serial drama on TV (for example soap opera or soaps) plays an important social role.

Do you agree or disagree?

Due to the rise in number of television viewers, so many satellite channels are on air now and each telecasts daily soaps to cater to the mainstream entertainment. For them, it is business. However, for society, the soaps can play an important role.

Firstly, majority of the soaps are based on social themes of present day. Hence, people see a mirror on to their own reality and relate to the soap to be entertained, to learn from

and even become conscious of things that they might not be doing in the right way. Also, on a lighter note the viewer gets to know recent trends in lifestyle, i.e. clothing, furnishing, fashion etc. and imbibe from it. What is more, by showing such lifestyle on TV, soaps can bridge the gap between urban and rural area and may help in slowing down the polarization process towards the cities.

Secondly, daily soaps can play an important role in spreading awareness about our culture and traditions from different regions. Each serial drama is set in a particular place and community and in this way others can get to know about their rituals, festivals and traditions. Even watching one's own culture showcased on television gives us a sense of belonging to a larger community.

On the other hand, there are certain disadvantages as well. First, when a serial becomes popular, their producers stretch it too long for monetary gains. To do this, they inevitably add negative characters and this may spread wrong messages in the society. Also, the celebration and depiction of rich lifestyle on TV, may misguide people into adopting unethical ways to earn more money to have a certain kind of life.

Finally, as per my opinion, daily soaps play an instrumental role in the society, as viewers' exposure to them is very high. However, governments should take actions to stop some serials which spread negative messages in the society.



73. Rather than promoting the quality of products, advertisements encourage consumers to buy the products in quantities.

Do you agree or disagree with the statement?

The prime objective of any advertisement is to make the consumer 'aware' of the product. Later on, 'advertisements diversified their role to promote the products and show the products' distinguishing qualitative features over their peers and help the sales. Nowadays, advertisements of many products perform only one function namely to prompt the consumer to buy the product.

The reason behind this change is that advertisements today are perceived only as a

means of increasing the sales. Hence, the companies force the ad makers to prepare the advert in such a way that the consumer wants to 'buy' more. It is a ploy to attract rather than a tool to inform. This is applicable to most FMCG (Fast Moving Consumer Goods) companies and their products.

Moreover, there are many ways in which they increase sales by offering various schemes, discounts, and free gifts via advertisements. These offers entice the consumer to buy only a certain product and not its competitor. This serves manifold purposes for the company as firstly, the consumer will to use the product. Second, he or she is made aware of quality in the process and third, now he does not need to be attracted any longer if he is satisfied.

However, many product segments are still untouched by this trend. Segments like, automobiles, capital goods, services sector still have to rely heavily on promotion of their quality.

Finally, according to me, it is true that today adverts inspire consumers to buy more rather than promoting the quality of the product. It does help in increasing the initial sales. However, if the quality is inferior, then, such products cannot survive.



74. Scientific research should be carried out and controlled by government owned companies rather than private owned companies.

Do you agree or disagree?

Scientific research is one of the most important contributing factors in the economy of any country. It has to be nurtured and developed properly. Hence, it is more advisable that government owned companies should control it.

There are many advantages of this. First is the 'motive'. The motive of the government is to raise the standard of living of the people and ensure their well being. Contrarily, a private company first thinks about its own profit. Second, the government agencies are bound by laws and have to operate within their limits while the private companies are usually seen to exploit the law to get the desired result. Third, government can fund the

research and can collect donations, which is not possible for private companies. What is more, help of governments of other countries can also be asked for, from the international level to hasten the process of research.

On the other hand, for private companies the research process is fast because they work under pressure to perform better. Next, the working environment is more professional, competitive and free from political influence. Hence the output can be efficient and result oriented. This is unlike the government companies where the job security is very high at times and that retards the growth as employees take their positions for granted.

To sum up, it is true that private companies offer better and efficient operative conditions. However, considering the chances of exploitation of the law by private firms, I assert that scientific research should be carried out and controlled by government owned companies only.



75. It is more important for a building to serve a purpose than to look beautiful. Architects should not worry about producing a building as a work of art.

Do you agree or disagree?

Since the early stages of evolution, human being has been building in order to get a place which houses him, a shelter that protects him and a site where he can work from. Civil engineering and architecture are the formal branches of the study of the science of construction. In my opinion the artistic facet of a building is outweighed by its practical use.

The usage of a building where day to day life takes place is the prime importance and varies from residential, commercial, storage, industrial purposes etc. Issues of space utilization where every square inch is important in urban locations, those of well-functioning services and adequate response to the environment are paramount for the comfort of those who shall inhabit the building.

Hence, architects should concentrate more on space management, ventilation, and convenient infrastructure that can enhance the efficiency of the people who will live and work in it. There are some cases where an office complex looks very elegant from outside but the people who work inside are not satisfied with the services and this troubles them each and every day. In addition to this, providing an artistic look to any building adds to its cost and maintenance. Moreover, at times, it does not obey the rules of structure and may succumb to pressures from the weather conditions or ecology.

However, for some buildings, more attention to aesthetics is essential, for example in the case of hotels, multiplexes, exhibition halls and museums. Here, art can be given due consideration by keeping all the structural rules in mind as these buildings serve the purposes of art and recreation.

All in all, I believe for any building, its function is more important than its looks because art is of no use if the building fails to serve the purpose.



76. Some people believe that air travel should be restricted because it causes serious pollution and uses up the world's fuel resources.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Air travel is a product of continuous introduction of innovative technology in the field of transport. It is an essential mode of travel for majority of people. As it is the fastest and most time saving mode of travel, it contributes to the economic development. However, some non-essential flights are harmful to the environment and have serious disadvantages.

Air travel affects negatively in many ways. Firstly, all the aircrafts run on ATF (Aviation Turbine Fuel, a high quality petrol) and they emit carbon and other gases in the sky in the form of smoke. This emission contributes to global warming, which is a serious problem for the world. Secondly, they consume large quantities of oil, which is a valuable resource. This leads to a rise in the price of crude oil and depletion of oil reserves which can have hazardous consequences.

Thirdly, air travel also adds to noise pollution. This is harmful to all the animals and birds. Finally, more number of flights means we require more and bigger size of airports. To build such airports, we require huge land and for that many forests are cut, which is another threat to the environment.

On the other hand, in today's world, air travel is almost essential. So many industries and economies rely heavily on this. If air travel is completely restricted, the economic growth of the whole world will be inhibited. Moreover, air travel also gives employment to millions of people who are engaged with the industry.

Finally, I firmly believe that though air travel is harmful to the environment, it is essential for the growth of the world. However, non-essential flights like those of the tourist, leisure and exploratory variety should be restricted.



- 77. Some people believe they should keep all the money they have earned and they should not pay tax to the state.**

Do you agree or disagree?

A state is a system that is run by the people and for the people. A state fulfils many duties for its people and to run efficiently, it requires income. This revenue comes from taxes that people pay to the state. Thus, paying taxes is absolutely necessary for the people.

There are so many reasons to support this. First, a state is a system that funds the development of so many segments including schools, universities, hospitals and so on. Secondly, states develop and maintain infrastructure i.e. roads, bridges, parks and they also run public transport systems like bus, tram, rail and airlines. Maintenance of all the systems requires huge funding. Hence state authorities rely heavily on the tax that people pay.

If people do not pay tax, it becomes very difficult for the state to maintain and operate all the facilities and services. This leads to dissatisfaction in the people's mind. Such developments bring many hardships for the people across all sections of the society. Finally,

the economic growth of the state stops and it can become a backward or underdeveloped part of the world.

On the other hand, some conservationists argue that governments do not utilize tax income in proper ways. Moreover, the money is generally wasted in scams and corruption. They also assert that the ratio of expenditure to earning is increasing everyday so they cannot afford to pay a big pie of their income in the form of tax.

All in all, I believe that it is essential for states to earn from taxes to keep the development of the country on track. That is why we must pay taxes because we are going to be reciprocated by the state in the form of facilities and services.



- 78. In today's world, the pressures of modern life are negatively impacting family life.**

Do you agree or disagree?

In every human being, there exists a never ending desire to be different. To satisfy this craze, he has been innovating novel ways to live life. This innovated lifestyle is called modern life and it seems there is no end to it because everyday more and more people adopt modern life without thinking of its adverse effects on their family life.

The desire to live a modern life is harmful to family life in many aspects. First, to look modern, people spend hefty sums of money on clothes, jewellery, cosmetics and so on. It is obvious that everyone cannot afford such expenses. Hence, people start borrowing money to show-off. This debt disturbs their minds and brings imbalance in the family life. There are incidences of people committing suicide after being under debt. Second, at times they also get addicted to narcotics, as it is considered thrilling and modern. Such addiction has disastrous consequences for the family.

Finally, I have seen people who force their spouses to change and to become modern beyond their abilities or against their will. Such expectations either bring deformity in the personality or can lead to broken relationships. This is also the reason why extra-marital affairs are increasing nowadays.

However, modern life has few benefits also. First, people stay updated with all the latest developments in the society. Second, innovations also add to the intellect of modern people. Finally, modern life gives immense opportunities to creative people from the fields of fashion, entertainment, music and art.

Conclusively, as per my opinion, there is nothing wrong to be modern. However we generally try to pretend to be modern and anything beyond a limit is bound to have negative effects. Hence, I agree that those who live under pressure of a modern life affect their family life negatively.



79. Education is considered vital for the future of any society in today's world. Governments throughout the world should make education compulsory for all children between the ages of 5-15 years.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the statement?

Today's economies are mainly divided into three parts; developed, developing and underdeveloped. The difference between these parts can be largely attributed to education. Countries that had concentrated more on education for centuries are developed. Those who have been doing this for decades are now developing and those who have not focused on education are still underdeveloped. This fact suggests that education has to be made compulsory for the better future of any society.

There are numerous advantages of making education compulsory. First, all children become literate and skilled in various practical ways. They are prepared for technical or professional qualifications. Second, the pool of skilled youngsters works as a building block for many industries and help the economy of the country to grow.

Next, multinationals are motivated to invest in such countries, because graduates with technical skills are freely available. For example, India has a pool of literate, English-proficient youngsters. As a result of this, India has become an outsourcing hub of the world and this industry is contributing considerably to the Indian economy. Finally, making education a must reduces child labour as well. This is a positive sign for the future of any society.

On the other hand, some people argue that it is practically not possible for all the governments to make education compulsory because it requires infrastructure, funding and skilled trainers. However, such issues can be taken care of by inviting private industries in the field. What is more, governments can also borrow funds from international sources because it is an investment for the future.

Finally, I assert that education is the foundation stone for the well-being of any society and hence it has to be made compulsory throughout the world for all children between the ages of 5 to 15 years.



80. In many countries the television telecasts many foreign made programs. The dominance of imported entertainment is harmful to the cultures of these countries. Do you agree or disagree with this?

Owing to the changes in lifestyle and advancement of technology, television has emerged as a prime means of relaxation and pastime in many societies. This has increased the demand of new programs with every passing day. In many countries, foreign made programs are shown to satisfy this demand. This development leaves some adverse effects on the viewing societies.

There are a few aspects by way of which the cultures of the viewing societies are affected. First, some people argue that watching foreign made programs makes the viewers aware of the cultures of developed countries. This argument looks good. However, it also implies that people start imitating foreign cultures and forget their own in the process and thus face the risk of losing their own identity.

Second, advocates of foreign made programs assert that such programs help people in improving their lifestyle. This statement is biased. Such programs always promote lifestyles and products that may not be in the reach of the people of the country in which the show is aired. False expectations thus build up, causing frustration in the long run.

Last, promoters of imported entertainment say that their programs satisfy the demands of people of watching television. This notion appears valid but it also means that local

TV companies have stiff competition and have to struggle to exist. Such development affects other areas of entertainment and even the artists.

Finally, I believe that foreign entertainment is harmful to the cultures of viewing societies as it can threaten the existence of cultures. I also assert that government should take some actions to stop the invasion of foreign cultures upon regional identities.



81. A century ago, when man landed on the moon, many people thought that it was a great contribution to the mankind. However, space travel has made little difference to people's lives.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Man has the tendency of taking ambitious steps to satisfy his curiosity, thrill, thirst for knowledge and sense of achievement. The usefulness of space travel may be proved later on however, the material, effort and time spent for such projects is always an investment where returns from the same are a question.

Space travel has made some important revelations about our galaxy. With the assessment of samples from the moon and conducting of experiments in spacecrafts scientists have provided us significant information about the cosmos. There is constant speculation about the possibility of life on other planets and whether we succeed or not this exploration has helped us understand our life on earth in a better manner.

However, in the rush of proving that they too are not behind in any way, countries have developed space travel projects and have spent billions of dollars on them. Space travel requires expensive fuel and therefore valuable natural resources are used up in huge quantities. An attitude to race against each other is thus disastrous for the earth in many ways. If countries share this knowhow human kind can run a collective space programme thereby saving a lot of money that can be spent on the upliftment of the needy populations of the world.

All in all, I agree with the notion that space travel has given us some ambitious, cheerful, proud, historic, memorable and satisfying moments. Apart from that, it has made no

contribution to the life of a common man. Countries should rethink their policy regarding the same.



82. Some people believe that we should not study history as it has little or nothing to tell us.

Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Human beings have a tendency to look back before they take a stride forward. In almost all the aspects of life, for example, law, technology, research, family, society and so on we tend to check the past and then we decide our next course of action. Studying history in an academic curriculum cannot be separated from this phenomenon.

Learning history is vital in today's life. First, by studying history we can understand the lifestyle of the past and gain examples of dealing with different issues of life. This study offers great help in solving present day problems. For example, archaeological study of water canal networks in ancient India helped a lot in preparing current irrigation projects that made water distribution very effective and fruitful in the country.

Second, study of history is a vehicle to impart the information about our culture, tradition, religion and rituals to the new generation. History glorifies and confirms the greatness and effectiveness of a culture and religion to the learners in the present and also prepares them for their future life by telling them about the faults of the past.

On the other hand, some people argue that history cannot teach us anything because day-by-day we are advancing in our life and hence we must only look forward. They also assert that what has happened cannot be changed but we can always construct what is going to happen. Thus, we should always focus on the present and future because history is nothing but a chronological list of events that is taught in schools to bore the students.

Finally, I assert that we should study history because it is a significant storehouse of information that enhances our understanding of the present.



83. Some people think that it is impossible for females to be successful working women and good mothers at the same time. They also suggest that government should give salary to mothers who stay at home to take care of their children.

Do you agree or disagree with the statement?

Women have made phenomenal progress in last few decades in most professional areas. However, there are concerns about women failing as a mother in the pursuit of being professional and there are divided opinions on whether they should be paid when they rear babies at home. I think they should be supported economically to nurture the future of the nation.

It is difficult for a woman to take care of her baby and fulfil all duties at her job as well. However, in our times it is not possible for everyone to sit at home bringing up children as the pressures of living in the modern world are intense. Thus, times are changing and we simply cannot pick one role over the other- she has to do both.

Considering the difficulties they face during the bringing up of their child, some people assert that they should be paid by the government as they rear the next generation of the nation. Hence, if there is any deficiency in that process, the country has to suffer from it in the future. They also add that now-a-days the birth rate is reducing in many developed countries because mothers find difficulty in fulfilling both the duties simultaneously and so they avoid conception. However, with government aid they can be encouraged to step into motherhood.

On the other hand, if the government were to pay those women who live at home and rear their children there are high chances of exploitation of the perks offered. Next, when women do not work, there is a loss to the economy.

Yet, according to my opinion, it is necessary to pay mothers because that support will aid the healthy development of our future generations.

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84. Nowadays children's writing and mathematical abilities are affected by computers and calculators. Some people argue that we should limit the use of these tools in schools.

Do you agree or disagree?

It is true that application of technology is affecting writing and calculation skills of students. There are divided opinions on the use of computer and calculators in schools. I think, benefits of technology outweigh its drawbacks.

Usage of electronic gadgets offers numerous positive results. First, they provide convenience by offering a faster pace in writing and calculation process that increases the exposure of students to more practice materials on the subject. Second, this usage makes students techno savvy. They get used to applying computers at a tender age. This helps them at the later stage in colleges and in jobs because these places use them extensively. Third, a computer offers editing, navigating and presentation facilities and it is a user-friendly tool. Students are thus motivated to gain benefit from it and enhance the quality of their projects.

However, usage of computers affects adversely also. To start with, they make a student dependant. Even for small calculations students feel the need to switch on their ~~computers~~ ^{calculators}. This dependence inhibits natural growth of skills and abilities in candidates and makes them vulnerable. According to a survey, in a developed country, students are using computers and calculators to carry out even small calculations like '24 x 2'. What is more, they are so psychologically reliant on computers that they cannot learn, study and pass their exams.

Finally, although the usage of computers and calculators is almost inevitable, their increased applications do hinder writing and mathematical skills of students. Therefore, I assert that we should limit their usage in order to make our future generation more independent, intelligent and confident.

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85. Technology like computers and mobile phones are widely in use. Writing letters will no longer be practiced in future.

Do you agree or disagree with the statement?

Describe the importance of writing letters.

It is a fact that we are living in the most advanced technological era. There has been a revolution in communication with the invention of the computer and mobile. Because of this revolution, writing letters seems to be a thing of the past. However, it cannot be eliminated completely from use.

Latest electronic gadgets offer many options to communicate like email, sms, voicemail, chat and so on. Moreover, these options offer plentiful benefits. First is speed. We can send an e-mail or sms to any person anywhere in the world in seconds. Next is cost effectiveness. They offer longer, interactive and real time communication at a very low price. In addition, we can send large amount of data such as graphics, music and even video recordings. Finally, they offer better reproduction quality and data can be stored for ages in a CD or in the memory of a hard disc.

However, this revolution has not touched all regions of the globe yet. There are places where mobiles and computers are not available. What is more, a big proportion of people cannot communicate either in English or they cannot use new technology. For them, writing letters is the only way to communicate.

Moreover, as letters are written by hands, they create a natural effect on the reader that is not possible for electronic communication to generate because it is mechanical. Furthermore, there are certain personal, business and public communications that must be carried out on paper only.

All in all, it is true that the spread of electronic communication is immense and its usage is increasing. Still, according to me writing letters has its own significance that can never be eradicated.



86. To learn a language, you have to learn the culture and lifestyle of the country in which the specified language is spoken.

Do you agree or disagree with the statement?

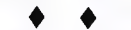
Language acquisition is a complex process. One opinion arises that we should also study the culture and lifestyle of the country in which the language is spoken. In this essay, arguments for both the views are discussed.

Different communities live with varying culture and lifestyles. Therefore, their language also differs from each other. It is also observed that different cultures use the same language differently. So, in order to acquire proficiency over a language, we must study the way of living and culture of the country because languages have various functions, styles and dialects. Moreover, every culture has different perceptions and applications of its language. Accordingly, styles and dialects are developed and keep changing constantly. Now, if a learner does not understand this aspect of language, his acquisition of that language remains superficial.

Moreover, study of lifestyle and culture always make the learner more comfortable with the usage of the language and in developing skills like reading, writing, speaking and listening. Furthermore, this results in effective and clear communication skills for the learner.

However, with the help of advanced learning tools like computers and Internet, it has become easy to learn any language without studying the culture or lifestyle of the native speakers. What is more, we are in an era of the development of a global culture and uniform lifestyle where the knowledge of a language does not require in-depth knowhow of the respective culture and lifestyle.

In conclusion, I assert that to develop proficiency over any language, learners ought to study the culture and style of living of the native speakers because without that knowledge of the language remains incomplete.



87. Some people state that the national teams and individual sportsmen and sportswomen should be financially sponsored by the government or a non-government body.

How far do you agree or disagree with the statement?

It has been a trend for last few decades that sportsmen and teams are sponsored by corporate bodies and/or government. With the increasing extent of financial sponsorship, controversies over their worthiness are also rising. However, there is nothing wrong in sponsoring them, provided the drawbacks are taken care of.

There are plentiful benefits of sponsoring sportsmen financially. First, players can use the money to buy expensive but useful and latest sports equipments that can help in enhancing their skills. In addition, there are many costly software programs that can be then acquired to understand the game better and improve their performance.

Second, with the help of finance, teams can hire doctors, physiotherapists, and sports psychologists. All these professional services are highly expensive but extremely essential to the team members for maintaining their physical fitness, improving mental attitude and expanding professional life. Finally, this money is a boon for upcoming players who do not have enough financial resources to support their sports activities.

On the other hand, there are some loopholes in this process. To start with, players get handsome amounts as their match fees, prizes and other gifts for their participation in tournaments. Next, it is also seen that popular sports individuals earn millions out of private brand endorsement contracts and other events like inauguration ceremonies, parties, cultural programs and so forth. Finally, companies focus only on highly successful players of popular sports. Consequently, other segments are completely neglected.

In conclusion, I assert that if the authorities give desired importance and justice to all segments of sports, financial sponsorship can be a boon for the players.

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88. The increasing housing problem in big cities has social consequences. Some people say that only governments can solve this problem.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Owing to the rise in population and polarization of people towards mega cities from small towns, the accommodation problem is mounting in all metropolises. This leads to other social troubles for the people as well. To encounter this issue, both governmental authorities and individuals have to share the responsibility.

The government can take some important steps in solving the housing problem. To begin with, it should develop adequate infrastructure in big cities that help families and communities to live together peacefully and synergistically. Also, it has to keep a strict administrative check on the real estate sector. Next, migration towards cities from villages is a major reason for housing problems in large cities. To prevent this, government should develop small towns and villages and provide facilities like employment, healthcare, education, interconnectivity and transportation, water, irrigation and so on.

On the other hand, at the individual level citizens need to pay their taxes regularly for the government to be able to provide them with better infrastructure. Also, they have to take responsibility for the maintenance of their urban environment and build their houses or commercial units in accordance with governmental bylaws. Illegal occupations have to be stopped and individuals have to be willing to give up a part of their property if that is the need for the construction of a road or an under bridge etc.

Finally, it is true that governments can do a lot in reducing social problems that arise due to housing scarcity in big cities. However, people at an individual level can also contribute to solve the problems. Thus, I opine that it certainly has to be a joint endeavour of both, people and government.

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89. People who are poor and those who come from rural areas find it difficult to access university education. Some believe that universities should provide some special facilities to help them.

Do you agree or disagree?

It is a fact that poor and rural people face troubles in accessing the universities. To address this issue, people argue that universities should offer some support in the form of finance, reservation, accommodation, scholarship and so forth. This argument has credibility provided it does not create imbalance in the student community.

People who favour underprivileged students support their view with the following arguments. First, facilities help the students to acquire tertiary education and make them competent professionals. In addition, their qualifications help them in getting lucrative jobs. This scenario contributes in reducing the rich-poor and urban-rural divide. Secondly, such students can use other resources of the university like computer, library, halls of residence etc. to enhance their academic performance. Finally, these perks can prove to be a boon for hidden talents within the student community in the field of studies, sports or arts.

However, there are some disadvantages of offering facilities also. First, educational opportunities should be based on merit rather than community, region or economic status. In offering any kind of reservations, social imbalance and dissatisfaction is bound to occur. Second, there are chances of exploitation of the support offered to poor or rural people. Such incidences make the whole effort look worthless. Finally, universities must be supported financially by the government to maintain such facilities, which in turn becomes a tax burden on urban people.

All in all, there are mixed impacts of offering assistance to poor and rural people. However, our ideal motto should be to provide equal opportunities to all sections of the society to build a balanced world. That is why I assert that we should offer facilities to them but with effective safeguards so that the educational system is saved from any untoward effects.

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90. Food can be produced cheaply by using improved fertilizers and machinery. At the same time, it has some dangerous effects on human health and may have negative effects on local communities.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Owing to recent developments in the farming technology the food-producing process is getting more economical and productive. It does have some negative effects on human health and farmers. However, the rewards of this technology outnumber the problems.

There are numerous advantages of cost-reduction in the food production process. To begin with, reduced cost makes the food reach the indigent and poor classes of the society. This improves health standards as the crops supplement the diet of conventional food sources that are largely cereal based. Next, increased food yield enables a country to export crops to other nations and generate revenue to promote its own economic growth.

Finally, a cheaper food production process attracts more entrepreneurs in the sectors like farming, irrigation, manufacturing of fertilizers and farming equipments etc. This development creates higher employment opportunities in these fields and invariably benefits the local people.

However, there are some threats observed for human health and local communities. First, fertilizers may affect the composition of food and can reduce the nutritive value of the food. In addition, such food can have adverse effects on human immunity and can lead to diseases like cancer. Last but not the least fertilizers can alter the soil quality of the region thus, effecting disastrously the livelihood of local communities.

In conclusion, the topic raises some issues of health and well being of farming communities. However, they can be taken care of by improved research in science. Hence, in my view, cost reduction of food production process is a welcome development and has many advantages.

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91. It is seen that while studying, university students stay away from their parents in most countries. Some people think it is good for the students.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It is indeed difficult to agree completely with either side of this proposition because both aspects of the topic have their pros and cons. Benefits and drawbacks of each are discussed below.

Living away from home has its own advantages for the students. First, staying at the university while studying gives a life of freedom and independence. According to me, freedom, if understood properly, always brings maturity and responsibility, which is a great improvement in the students' personality. In addition, their decision-making ability also strengthens. Second, study at home sometimes suffers because of social interference. What is more, students also have to follow the discipline of the home and that may hinder their studies. For example, medical students may have to go to the hospital even at midnight. If they live at home, other members of the family shall be disturbed.

Now, let us look at the other side of the argument. Students who live at hostels always lack the support and warmth a family can provide. They miss the guidance of their parents in important matters such as an event of failure in studies or selecting a specialization or a part time job. They often feel lonely at university and to overcome this loneliness, they may digress towards addictions. Next, many students feel that the environment of their home is more convenient and helpful for their study. Finally, parents can better assist financially when they live with their children. Such support enhances academic performance of the students.

In my opinion, living away from home while acquiring tertiary education often helps in overall development of students. However, I also assert that they should remain in close contact with their parents to sustain warmth and support for each other in order to prevent themselves from the drawbacks of living alone at the hostel.



92. Learning a foreign language offers an insight into how people from other cultures think and see the world. Considering this, it is often argued that teaching of a foreign language should be made compulsory in all primary schools.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this view?

It cannot be denied that language conditions our mind. It is a mould by which we shape our perceptions and understand the world. Learning a foreign language always helps a person to understand other people and their cultures. However, teaching a foreign language at primary school level cannot attain this objective.

There are ample reasons why teaching a foreign language at primary schools is not sensible. First, to know other languages and other people, one should know one's own self. Childhood is the time to create this base for the children. They should learn their language first and know themselves and their culture. Second, childhood is a phase where students start developing their abilities to think and perceive. It is necessary for them to come to a certain level of understanding and then after that they should acquire a foreign language at a tertiary level.

Moreover, teaching a foreign language can also disturb students' learning and development of their understanding. Because they cannot distinguish easily between different cultures it can lead to a hazy perception of the world.

On the other hand, some people argue that if we teach a foreign language in primary schools, children develop a better approach towards the understanding of other people and their culture. Furthermore, they also argue that at a later stage, the minds of the students that have already been conditioned by the first language education, offer resistance to the new insights that a foreign language brings in.

Finally, in my opinion, it is true that a foreign language always helps in improving our understanding of other people and their perceptions. However, I think at primary schools, such an objective cannot be fulfilled, as it is not the proper time to learn a foreign language.



93. Some people warn that the era of the silver screen is coming to an end and that people will lose interest in going to the cinema.

Do you agree or disagree with this view?

The cinema has been a popular form of entertainment for many decades. Even the silent films of the early centuries were loved by the people around the world. Hollywood is now an enormous business and film stars like Angelina Jolie or Brad Pitt earn millions of dollars. This is a means of entertainment, which will never decrease in popularity.

People think that going to cinema will become out of date because of the increase in the

production and popularity of DVDs and home videos. It's certainly true that we can all stay at home now and watch films in comfort. What is more, the cost of these films is much cheaper for a big family than going to the cinema. In addition to this, pirated CDs and DVDs also prevent people from going to movie theatres. Next, young people enjoy spending a night at home watching a DVD or a video. Furthermore, young children adore videos because they can watch them again and again.

However, the cinemas in my country and across the globe are still full every weekend and when a new film is released, we are keen on watching it on the silver screen. In fact, many small cinemas have been rebuilt into new multiplexes having six or eight screens and showing eight to ten movies a day. Moreover, they offer luxurious facilities and many other fun oriented activities that make for a joyful experience for the visitors. Finally, movies genres like horror, science fiction or thrillers can be enjoyed fully only on a cinema screen.

All in all, it seems that we are enjoying both the cinema and the facilities that technology can offer us and that each of these has its merits. In my view, although people will watch DVDs and videos, they will never stop going to cinemas.



94. Movies with spectacular car chases are a thrill to watch and fun too but they have led to an increase in car accidents on urban roads.

Do you agree or disagree with the view?

What do you think can be done to make the youth more aware of road safety?

Movies tend to have a very high influence on young people who are swayed both by what they see and hear. In my opinion, it is true that car chases in action movies tend to an increase in the number of car accidents among young drivers.

There are so many reasons behind this. Firstly, in the process of imitation they drive too fast and take unnecessary risks to satisfy the sense of thrill, which is very strong in them at that age. Secondly, youngsters are so influenced by the films that they forget the

difference between movies and reality. Most importantly, they do not realize that they lack the skills and experience to do this and in the process put themselves and others at risk.

There are a variety of ways in which young people can be encouraged to practice safer driving habits. To start with, the government should launch a "drive-safe" campaign to convey the fact that driving safely is not uncool. Secondly, every movie should make it clear that dangerous car chases are undertaken only in strict safety conditions with experienced drivers, and often most of those thrilling scenes are created on computers with the help of various softwares.

In addition to this, it should be compulsory for young people to take safety driving courses every year for the first five years that they have their driver's license. In this way, they are forced to perfect their driving skills or lose their license if they fail to do so.

Finally, as a part of this course, young drivers should go to the hospitals and see people whose lives have been destroyed due to stupid risk taking. It will help them to change their minds about copying action heroes and driving fast.



95. Some people think that paper money and coins will be replaced completely by credit cards and online methods of payment in the near future.

Do you agree or disagree with their statement?

It is indeed a fact that usage of plastic money and internet transactions have been rising constantly over the last few years. All over the world, majority of corporate and shopping transactions are now carried out without printed money. Thus, a belief has been created that such a trend will eliminate paper currency from usage. This seems convincing but shall not materialize according to me.

There are numerous reasons why paper money can never be completely out of usage. Firstly, even today, there are some places where credit cards and internet have not reached. At those places, printed money is the only way of monetary exchange. Secondly, all online and credit card transactions are accessible by the authorities and those

who hide away their income never use such methods of money exchange. They always opt for cash.

Thirdly, usage of credit cards and internet has its own drawbacks like frauds, theft, misuse and so on. Such possibilities often oblige people to stay away from them. I would like to quote world's most renowned investor Mr. Warren Buffet, who once said, "In my life of 70 years, I have never ever used a credit card." His statement speaks a lot about the perception of plastic money in the minds of many.

However, it cannot be denied that usage of internet based transactions and various types of cards is becoming more common by the day as they offer convenience and ease of access. Moreover, we do not have to carry around cash and worry for its safety.

All in all, I admit that usage of internet and cards for monetary exchange is increasing and will continue to rise. However, considering their limitations, I opine that paper money will never be eliminated from use.



96. Once children start going to school, their teachers have more influence on their intellectual and social development than their parents.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

It is an undeniable fact that both teachers and parents have immense impact on the tiny minds of children. Thus, for decades, people have been debating as to who amongst them has more impact on the minds of children. It seems that parents win over teachers in some areas and vice versa.

Impact of teachers is high because children's intellectual and academic development takes place in school under the monitoring of their teachers. Next, teachers also take care of linguistic development and basic skills including social and behavioural etiquettes of children. Moreover, children always look up to their teachers as they are answerable to them. Furthermore, children also see their parents offering respect to the teachers and this gives an impression to tiny tots that teachers are more respect worthy and influential. So they tend to follow after them.

On the other hand, influence of parents can never ever be underestimated. Firstly, parents are constant companions, guides and witness to all the joys and sorrows of children in their childhood. Secondly, emotional bonding of children with their parents is extremely high, which also strengthens the influence of parents. Finally, it is also true that teachers keep changing in the academic life of a child but the parents are always there.

Finally, I think both parents and teachers have their share of influence on the little, impressionable minds of children. If I assess deeply, I believe that teachers play an important role in intellectual aspects of child growth and parents have their major share in the emotional and social development of children.



97. It is seen that rate of unemployment is very high in some countries. Because of this, some people say that there is no need to provide education beyond primary level to the pupils of such a country.

Do you agree or disagree with the statement?

Unemployment is a great concern for many nations in the world. It has plentiful adverse implications. This is the reason an argument is presented by some that such a country should not spend more money for providing education to its school going students. However, this argument seems extremely pessimistic to me.

There are numerous reasons why governments must not stop providing education to their young ones. To begin with, education is the key for employment. Most countries where lack of jobs prevails, it is also observed that the literacy ratio and number of trained skilled workers are low. This implies that unemployment is directly proportionate to deficiency of education.

Moreover, education opens options for people not only in their own country but also in foreign nations. They may go to other countries as immigrants, earn money and can remit the income back home. This revenue often helps in boosting the economy of their home country.

Finally, educated youth is capable of attracting international corporations and industries which invest heavily in the country and can create number of jobs for the local people. All such development is possible only if adequate education is provided till the tertiary level to all the students of the country.

However, some short sighted people say that educating youth is very expensive. The authorities need to allocate extra funds to provide proper academic knowledge, which puts pressure on other basic facilities like transport and healthcare. They also add that less jobs and an educated, unemployed youth is a devastating combination as the youth may turn hostile and indulge in criminal activities.

Conclusively, I firmly believe that no child should be deprived from being educated. It is an investment that will certainly bear fruits in terms of economic developments in forthcoming decades.



98. A country's future depends on its young people. Therefore, it is often argued that governments should invest heavily in its youth.

Do you agree or disagree?

It is true that today's children will be young after a decade and they will be taking control of all the systems of the nation in forthcoming decades. In this context, if the forthcoming leaders are not well nurtured, the future of the country is likely to be bleak. Thus, investing in youth should be a compulsion for all the countries.

There are several reasons why the youth must be taken care of by the governments. Firstly, an educated and skilled graduate of today will be a competitive and skilled employee or employer in the future. In addition, they can adapt to and flourish in all facets of life and work. Secondly, such youngsters can enhance economic growth of the country. Consequently, the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of the country also rises. Thirdly, with a developing economy, social, political, financial and intellectual standards of life rise and the citizens can have an excellent existence to cherish.

Moreover, a healthy, well brought up, educated youth always makes a better and com-

patible workforce as they can tackle any task at work and are capable of giving their best over a long period of time with consistency. Finally, we can take certain countries like America, who have invested heavily in their youth and these days, USA is one of the most economically developed countries in the world. Such status is largely owing to the skilled workforce they produced since early 1990s. The same is now true for countries like India and China as they are still preparing a generation that is skilled, educated and healthy and ready to uplift the economy of their country.

In conclusion, I must say that investing in youth is to secure the future. These youngsters whom we nurture today will surely reward the society with the fruits of economic, social and intellectual development.



99. Some people assert that sports help to a greater extent to build peace in the world.

Do you agree or disagree?

There is a general view that sporting activities help to build peace in the world. I wholeheartedly agree with the proposition. Be it at the level of an individual, a society, a country or the world, sports activity is a positive channelling of energy which kills negativity and brings about joy and peace.

At the level of an individual, it helps to build physical fitness in terms of strength, agility and stamina. In addition, there is a sense of competition and a pursuit towards betterment of self. Also, in team sports a person learns the virtues of participation, sharing and management which go a long way in building character. Thus, there is no doubt that such positive individuals are the backbone of a peaceful world.

At the level of a society or a country people take pride in accomplished sportsmen from their region and instead of wasting energies on petty rivalries, sports competitions help them to stay in a healthy contest with each other. For example, the football clubs in Europe have built an identity over and above a country or a region and therefore play an important role in uniting people.

Further, at the international level, sports play a very important role in diplomatic relations and the relations of the populations of different countries. Owing to historical or political reasons, not all countries are at peace with each other. Sports thus can be an ice breaker as competitors from these nations create a common stage for politicians and others to interact. Intense patriotic energies find a release too as is seen in the case of an India Pakistan cricket match.

To conclude, in total agreement with the given proposition I assert that governments should work towards building healthy sporting relationships within the country and with other countries as well.



100. Group and team activities are more important than the actives done alone, because they teach us important life skills.

Do agree or disagree?

There is no doubt that group and team activities teach us important life skills. But to say that they are more important than activities done alone is not right according to me. For a fulfilling life a healthy balance of both is required.

Group activities teach us the virtues of sharing, patience, team spirit, public relations and even management skills. Children who do not have siblings or loners who do not interact much with people are seen to develop some negative traits in their persona as they have never had a healthy sharing relationship. On the other hand when we work alone on a task it lets us evolve a keen ability to concentrate, pursue perfection and overreach our abilities. We are not obliged to work according to the wishes of anyone else so we become our own critic and guide and this goes a long way in building an individual personality. Many great scientists, artists and musicians have been known to have worked alone.

Both kinds of activities inculcate a sense of responsibility and belonging. In team work you have a certain role to fulfil and you cannot falter as regards that and in the case you are alone, if you do not work with responsibility, you know you are bound to fail. Performing a role in a team makes us feel that we belong to the group. On the other hand, in

working alone when we put forth a unique talent that also helps us find our own place in this world where everyone is defined by what they do.

Therefore, for the healthy growth of an individual both teamwork and individual pursuit are essential. Neither can be considered more important than the other.



101. Some people believe that children should do organized activities in their free time while others believe that children should be free to choose what they want to do in their free time.

Which of these opinions do you agree with?

Many people are in favour of organized activities for children during free time while some say that children should be left alone to select what they wish to do during these hours. I personally believe that organizing activities for them is a better idea and within that we should give them freedom to follow their own direction.

During childhood, proper guidance is essential for children to develop in a healthy manner. To begin with, parents and teachers should not only guide them in the domain of academics but also plan constructive activities for them to make good use of free time. Secondly, in the present times satellite television, internet and computer games are a big lure for the children. If they are completely let free they are sure to waste most of their time in passive activities. It is not that such activities should be totally denied but fixed hours can be assigned to them so that not all free time is wasted in them.

Thirdly, organized activity is not any kind of binding. Keeping in mind the child's inclinations and interest, guardians should make it possible for children to access facilities that help them to follow what they like. With a system in place, a child is free to follow his or her own path, be it painting, sports, singing, dancing or skating etc.

Thus, I do not believe that children should be completely left alone to opt what they wish to do in their leisure time as this can lead to disastrous results. Parents and teachers should direct activities for them and guide them at every stage to ensure that the kids grow up into responsible adults.



102. Some people think that no one should be allowed to work after the age of 65. Others say that people should be allowed to work for as long as they want to.

Which of these arguments do you agree or disagree with?

Governments and private institutions all over the world have a prescribed retirement age that is usually around 65 years. There has been a raging debate if this is a good idea or people who are fit and healthy should be allowed to continue beyond this age as well. In my opinion, retirement age should be decided on the basis of the nature of job one is engaged in and also with respect to the proficiency one possesses.

Firstly, in the case of jobs that require intense physical fitness like the field jobs in the army, navy and air force it is essential that there is a fixed retirement age so that the quality of service is not affected. Secondly, jobs that have a very repetitive pattern like those in the clerical departments of government offices should have a strict retirement policy because after a point in time it is impossible for employees to keep up the standard of results required. Thirdly, in the fields such as sports and fashion, even though there is no prescribed retirement age yet individuals know that they have a short shelf life and as their youth passes them by so does their profession come to an end.

On the other hand, for some fields of human endeavour, I feel that employees should be given a choice if they wish to work beyond a certain prescribed retirement age. A committee could be set up to determine their level of proficiency and if it deems the employee fit and the employee too wishes to go on working then there should not be a forced retirement.

Conclusively, I opine that there should be a fixed retirement age for the positions where constant physical and mental efforts are required as I have discussed above. However, for all other jobs, people should be allowed to work if they are capable to fulfil the job requirements.



103. Nowadays, an increasing number of countries are confronted with the disappearance of cooking skills.

What is the situation like in your country?

Do you agree that the young children should be taught home cooking in school?

There is no doubt that with pressures of modern life more and more young people have little or no cooking skills. The situation in my country is no different. Though, becoming a chef is a rather popular professional choice owing to cookery shows on television, yet day to day home cooking is considered a boring and cumbersome task.

There are plentiful benefits of teaching culinary skills to school going children. The first and foremost benefit of this is that they learn importance of food ingredients that they eat in their meal and the role of each of them in maintaining their health. In addition, during their learning lessons, they also realise that there is joy and warmth and wholesomeness to a fresh home cooked meal. Unfortunately, regardless of the amount young professionals earn, they mostly eat out and ruin their health which, according to me is a far more expensive option apart from being unhealthy.

Thirdly, we all learnt in our schools that 'Home is where the hearth is'. If there is no proper running kitchen in a family the adhesive to hold the family members together is missing. Finally, food is not something that we just eat but it also is a cultural tradition that we carry forth. If we stop to cook, a part of our culture would die with us.

To sum up, I feel if children are taught to cook at school and alongside that are made aware of healthy and unhealthy eating habits it would be very nice for a society and a country.



104. Full time university students spend most of their time behind their academic subjects. Some people say that they should engage in other activities also.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

University students have a lot of academic work on hand and it is usually seen that they do not engage in any extracurricular activities. Some people think that this is not right

and they should involve themselves in fields other than academics as well. I agree that this indeed should be the case.

Youth is the time when we are building a foundation for our entire life. There is no doubt that academics is essential but if we do not explore other fields at this stage then later in life with demanding professional requirements and a family to take care of we shall not get the time to do so. Also, only bookish knowledge cannot help us to achieve success in life more so, in the present times, where being multi-talented is not an advantage-rather, it is a basic requirement. In addition, practical knowledge as well as management and public relation skills are the need of the hour.

Thirdly, at the level of the university, our perceptions are still unformed and raw and exposing them to different kinds of tasks will help us enrich our lives. This is almost essential because, at a later age, the body and mind lose the agility and freshness of youth and it is too late to try different things or enjoy them.

To conclude, I firmly believe that alongside academics, students at university level should engage in multiple kinds of activities like learning and appreciating music, dancing, understanding fine arts, managerial tasks etc. This shall help them to broaden their horizons, live a more meaningful life and become responsible citizens of the world.



105. If a person becomes successful or unsuccessful, it is only because of his/her luck.

Do you agree or disagree with the statement?

I disagree with the statement given here. There is no doubt that luck plays a role in the success or failure of an individual but that this is the only determining factor is not true. Hard work and perseverance are two other determinants of the results of his or her actions.

Luck can open a door for us but what we do with that opportunity is completely dependent upon our viewpoint and the efforts we put in thereafter. For example, a person might come to inherit a profitable business by a stroke of luck but if he does not have the

ability to run it properly and neither the inclination to work hard, there is no way that he would achieve success.

Secondly, one might put in little effort and yet reap great rewards. For instance, a student who does not study much but happens to cheat during an exam may score well. Yet, this scenario cannot be repeated in all exams and all through one's life. Thus, such success is unsustainable. Thirdly, there are cases where an individual puts in lots of effort but fails in the end because of bad luck. To exemplify, take the case of a brilliant student who because of a roll number mix up gets below average grades. Again, these instances are far and few and many times even reversible.

Finally, I believe that success or failure are a result of our own actions and not a result of luck. Each failure is a lesson for life and we are more intelligent and better prepared after suffering a failure. Similarly, each success teaches us that there are far more milestones to be reached.



106. The spread of multinational companies and globalization is increasing with time. Some people say that it will bring positive effects for everyone.

Do you agree or disagree?

The world has become a global village as most countries have come to espouse the free market economy model. There are numerous multinational companies with operations and markets for their products spread across the globe. This trend is on the increase and it is largely believed that it shall bring positive effects for everyone. I agree with the proposition here.

With the world as one big stage there is a common ground for everyone to relate to which means the playing field is levelled and nobody has more advantage owing to their place of birth. This creates a larger opportunity for people to pursue economic prosperity. Secondly, weaker economies and poor nations have a role to play as well because manufacturing units come to be located here. In this way their populations can find jobs and uplift themselves from poverty. Thirdly, products can be made available world over

and no longer do we pine for 'foreign' made goods as the same can be bought in the local market.

There is no doubt that there are concerns of exploitation of cheap labour in developing economies and the increasing divide between the rich and the poor. But to my mind these are the initial problems of the process of globalization. Once, it reaches its zenith there is no doubt that it shall help us to deal with poverty. The labour shall also get its due rights as it realises that it is an important link in the global chain because globalization not only brings jobs in its wake, it also brings awareness.

In conclusion, considering the benefits and positive effects of globalisation on both the developed and the developing nations, I wish to state that spread of multi-national companies and globalization is a very good development.

2. DISCUSSION (37)

- 1 Some people think schools should educate pupils according to their academic ability, and others believe pupils with different abilities should be educated together.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Considering the wide gap in intellectual abilities of children, it is often argued by some that students in schools should be taught according to their learning abilities. However, this argument only looks good on paper.

Selecting pupils according to their academic ability is not advisable due to various reasons. First, such a system of filtering students gives a sense of inferiority to those who are not in the group and a feeling of superiority to those who are selected. This is harmful to both groups of students in the long run. Secondly, it is often seen that students show inconsistency in their academic performance. For example, a student who gets 60-70% marks may develop interest in studies at any stage during his academic life and can uplift his academic scores to 80-90%. If we separate candidates, chances of such transformation in average candidates will be almost zero. Finally, some weaker

students may get inspired by other bright students and may learn to perform well in their studies if they all study together.

The other side of this argument says that if we separate students according to their learning ability, their learning can be enhanced to far better levels than what can be achieved in a mixed class. Moreover, some complex concepts can also be taught to them to make them intellectually sharper and more capable. Furthermore, in a mixed class some intelligent candidates may come under influence of spoilt children and may ruin their academic prospects.

To sum up, if I see this issue in the light of benefit of intelligent candidates, the argument may seem appropriate. However, its overall effect on the student community is likely to be more harmful because it may hurt self-esteem of students and this cannot be permitted under any circumstances.



2. Some people think that teachers should be responsible for teaching students to judge what is right and what is wrong so that they can behave well. Others think that teachers should only teach academic subjects to students.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

A teacher's basic duty is to teach academic subjects and for that they are assigned a syllabus and a term to complete their task. However, ensuring academic success and moulding a child into a better individual are fundamental responsibilities of a teacher. Hence, teaching only academic subjects does not satisfy all the objectives.

A child grasps the happenings in the surroundings and understands them as per his or her perception. If he does not know what is good or bad, he may accept some evils as a part of life and become comfortable with them and indulge in activities like watching TV excessively, talking loudly, using slang, smoking and so on. Indulgence in such activities causes the child to misbehave and distracts him from studies. Therefore, teachers must teach children what is positive and negative for them because a teacher's position comes immediately after the parents in a child's life. It is observed that nowadays both parents

work and cannot devote sufficient time to their offspring; in such a situation, a teacher's role becomes even more important.

The understanding of what is acceptable and unacceptable helps in many ways. Firstly, when a child knows it, he is more inclined towards studies and becomes more responsible about life. Secondly, his academic performance and behaviour improve that make him an all-round success. Finally, it also prevents juvenile delinquency as the child stays away from such activities.

However, some people argue that teachers must concentrate only on academia as the child learns other lessons from his family. In addition, they assert that parents are the best teachers when it comes to behaviour.

As per my opinion, it is true that the child learns many things from parents but teachers should also teach positives and negatives of life, as this is the first step towards shaping a better and well-behaved individual which leads to a better society.



3. **Some people think that there are benefits in going to private secondary schools. Others feel that private secondary schools can have negative effects on the society as a whole.**

Discuss both views and give your opinion?

Importance of education in present era has been the highest ever in the history. It has increased the demand of secondary schools. As a result, many private secondary schools have come into existence. However, it is difficult to state explicitly whether they are a positive or negative development for the society.

Private secondary schools offer many benefits. First, they offer qualitative competence i.e. the quality of teaching in private schools is often superior over government schools because in private schools teachers have to continuously update themselves in order to keep their jobs. This is an unlikely occurrence in government schools where job security comes in the way of the growth of teachers.

Secondly, private establishments can offer numerous facilities like school buses, better

infrastructure, computer laboratories and extracurricular activities because they charge higher fees and they do not have to rely on grants from the government. Finally, private schools can cater to a large number of students thereby meeting the demand of more schools in a city. Hence, they help in fulfilling the objective of making education available to as many as possible.

On the other hand, there are some drawbacks also. To start with, owing to the job insecurity, teachers in private schools often incline towards private tuition classes, which results in degradation of teaching quality. Next, privatization brings professionalism i.e. private schools often charge very high fees that most middle class families cannot afford. In addition, they also demand heavy donations at the time of enrolment. In the end, such a scenario creates imbalance in society because to study in such schools is a privilege and parents often resort to unacceptable ways for getting their children into such schools.

All in all, I think private secondary schools are necessary in today's world. However, they have considerable adverse effects on society also. Still, we can get better fruits of private education provided the government takes effective steps to prevent corporatisation of schools.



4. **In some countries, married couples plan to have a baby at a later age due to the demands of their professional career.**

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of it and give your opinion.

Globalisation has had plenty of side effects on our life and work style. The tendency in married couples to avoid conception is one of them. This attitude seems to have more drawbacks than benefits.

Today's life obliges both partners in a marriage to work and to advance in their careers to meet the increased financial requirements. This is why, they may not get adequate time to conceive and look after a baby. Moreover, childcare is becoming expensive in today's world, which also forces some parents to work for a few years, plan their future financially and then go for a baby. Furthermore, it is observed that practical work expe-

rience is helpful for the intellectual growth of working women. Now, if women give birth to a child immediately after marriage, their entire focus shifts to the baby, which further affects their personal and professional growth.

On the other hand, this attitude is harmful in many ways. First, conceiving a child during middle age is harmful to the women as their natural stamina and strength reduce with age. Second, the hormonal changes in women's body also affect the growth of the child in the womb and this may have adverse effects during the time of pregnancy. This is especially more harmful because to avoid pregnancy, married women take lots of oral contraceptives that lead to a hormonal imbalance. Finally, it is also seen in many couples that one of the partners becomes career oriented and does not want a child at all. Such incidences create conflicts between the couple and may result in breaking of the relationship.

In conclusion, although it is important to give attention to the professional career and growth, married people should also consider the troubles that might happen during pregnancy at a later age and take a decision accordingly. Because, I think, such a tendency is dangerous and it is bound to change in the future according to me.



- 5. Some people say that fashion affects our lives in a negative way. However, others say that it has more positive effects on our lives.**

Discuss and give your opinion.

In today's world, it is rare to find a person who is untouched by fashion because its presence is felt in every corner of this world across societies, countries, genders and age groups. Spread of fashion as a whole is not bad for the humans provided it is perceived as a novelty or a creative pursuit.

Fashion is indeed positive for our lives for many reasons. First, it is considered as youthful and creative. This implies, when we follow fashion, we feel younger, energetic and creative. In addition, such positivity fills our life with good vibes and helps us to do better in other aspects as well. Secondly, fashion also gives a good platform for creative people to explore their ideas to enrich the arts of our times. Finally, we must not forget

the fact that fashion as an industry also gives employment to millions of people across the globe.

On the other hand, a mindless pursuit of fashion also has a few negative consequences. First, it can harm people if they follow fashion just to show off. Some people waste their money on looking younger even if the expense is out of their reach. The second aspect is ignorance. In the rush of following fashion, sometimes we forget its implications on our health. For example, many girls use different cosmetics without knowing their possible adverse effects on their skin.

In conclusion, I admit that fashion must be followed wisely. If it is followed blindly, it always affects our health and financial condition. However, if it is followed mindfully, it becomes a form of art which helps us to lead a joyous and creative life.



- 6. Some people think spending a lot on birthday celebrations and weddings is a waste of money. Others think that it is important to the young people and society.**

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

The importance of recreational and celebratory activities is mounting amongst youngsters day-by-day. They believe they should spend hefty sum on celebrations and make them memorable. This attitude is acceptable provided it does not create any financial burden on them.

This is an era of globalization, where people do not find enough time and holidays to celebrate festivals and rituals. Moreover, globalization has given affluence and easy access to exclusive and exotic paraphernalia to the youngsters. Once they enjoy all these, they want to make them a part of their celebrations in order to make those events memorable in their life. Furthermore, media is also playing a vital role in inculcating importance of celebrations by repeatedly showing the same on television and in magazines. Youngsters find a sense of self-actualization in receiving compliments for an occasion they organized and others enjoyed with great pomp.

On the other hand, excessive expenditure is a waste of material wealth and this is harmful in many ways. First, youngsters are easily driven away to show off their wealth. In such situation, they borrow money to throw parties and other celebrations. Second, it is seen that many a times invaluable food, water, electricity etc. are wasted by the people. The same material can be used for poor and needy people and this can generate a genuine sense of self-actualization.

Finally, it is true that there are some concerns of wastage of money and materials in spending big on social events. However, if a person is capable of spending and he wants others to join the same, I think there is nothing wrong in it because it can be important to the person who spends the money.



7. **Modern lifestyles are completely different from the way people lived in the past. Some people think the changes have been very positive, while others believe they have been negative.**

Discuss both these points of view and give your own opinion.

It is undeniable that the average person's lifestyle has changed enormously during the last few decades owing to the huge impact of modern technology and economic development. I think the positive impacts certainly outweigh the negative ones.

Some people believe that modern life is much better than in the past. As evidence of this, they point to improvements in health care and education and the general rise in the standard of living. Moreover, they argue that machines have changed working conditions and reduced the need for hard physical labour. Furthermore, they talk about the large leisure industries that have transformed people's concept of vacation and entertainment.

On the other hand, it can also be argued that some changes have had a negative impact on our lives. For example, there have been adverse effects on both natural and human environments. In addition, stress from all the pressure in today's schools and workplaces may have reduced the quality of life in social terms. Having access to more

things and more entertainment cannot compensate for the loss of social relationships. One reason for this loss is that families spend less time together and, as a result, divorce rate and even crime has increased and people do not have any sense of community.

In conclusion, I think there is evidence to suggest that some of the changes we have experienced in the modern world have affected our lives in a negative way, especially in terms of the family and the environment. But overall, it is clear that most of these developments have been good for the majority of people. I feel we need to ensure that these positive changes are sustained and shared more in the future.



- 8 **Nowadays many people prefer to shop in supermarkets rather than small shops or local markets?**

Is this positive or negative for development?

Discuss and give your opinion.

Owing to innovations in the retail sector and introduction of shopping malls, shopping has become a pleasant experience rather than a boring responsibility in this era of consumerism. This development has directed buyers towards malls and supermarkets from local shops or markets. It seems to be a good development, which is here to stay for a long time.

The trend of buying things from supermarkets or malls is indeed good for most consumers. First, such places offer lots of convenience in terms of easy reach, facilities like parking, air conditioned climate, free home delivery, better support while buying the products and so on. Secondly, products are displayed properly and are available in multiple kinds of packs and in desired quantities in supermarkets. Hence, a customer remains assured about the availability of the products that he wants.

Third, buying from malls and supermarkets is often symbolized as status in the society. People often go to such places just because elite class of society goes there. Lastly, supermarkets often give more discounts and customer loyalty rewards and credit for a certain period which is not possible for local markets to offer.

On the other hand, local markets do offer some benefits to customers. As small shop owners do not spend heavily on infrastructure and interior, their operating cost is lower, which motivates them to offer more discounts to their customers. Secondly, most local markets are traditionally popular and located in close proximity to the city areas. Therefore, customers can get an easy access to them.

To sum up, buying from shopping malls and supermarkets gives a pleasant experience compared to that of local markets. Thus, I think this trend is indeed positive for the future of retail markets.



- 9. Modern shopping malls are highly convenient for people. However, small markets are still popular among consumers.**

Discuss both views and give your preference.

It is a fact that with every passing day new shopping malls are opening in many cities across the world. Shopping is being perceived as a corporate concept. However, small markets are still popular among consumers because of their particular advantages.

First, shopping malls offer many benefits. To start with, the layout, infrastructure and interior design of such malls are so attractive that people are motivated to visit them. Next, they offer amenities like parking, air conditioning, security, escalators and so on. All such facilities make the malls a preferred choice for many consumers. However, they do have some limitations. To begin with, they are not affordable for small scale and commodity traders. Because of this, many reputed retail shop owners opt to stay in small markets only. In addition, higher investment and input costs oblige the traders the malls to increase their profit margin, which is a disadvantage to consumers.

On the other hand, small markets have their typical benefits. To start with, we can find many shops of a similar range of products at one place. These places offer better visibility of the shops to the customers, which, in turn enhances competition amongst the traders and obliges them to keep prices at an optimum level that benefit the buyers. However, small markets are chaotic places where parking, security and hygiene are always a problem for visitors.

To summarize, both places have their own benefits and drawbacks. In my opinion, malls are suitable for consumer durables and garments whereas small markets are suitable for perishable commodities like vegetables, fruits, groceries and so on. But, looking at the present scenario, I assert that malls are gaining popularity because of the convenience they offer.



- 10. Many Countries host international sporting events these days. What are the positive and negative impacts of hosting such events?**

Discuss both the sides and give your opinion.

Organizing international sporting events is becoming a frequent phenomenon in all continents of the world. These days, we see many countries are eager to host international sports events. This is indeed a profitable step for the host countries.

The first and foremost benefit of hosting international sports events is that the host country gets huge attention of international media, business and corporate groups, athletes and tourists. Next, the host country gets a boost in foreign revenues in the form of sponsorship and rights of satellite broadcast. Moreover, local athletes come into limelight as representatives of the host. This is extremely useful in spreading awareness of sports activities at the local level. Finally, the country also acquires diplomatic and political consideration among the elite group of developed nations.

On the other hand, hosting international sports events is highly expensive and needs lots of funding from the government. Now, the government may face opposition if a large mass of its population is in dire need of basic necessities. Moreover, if the host fails to manage the event properly, its reputation is affected internationally. For example, India was the host of Common Wealth Games 2010 and we read in the media that the arrangements were not up to standards. In such cases, rather than gaining, the country is losing reputation. Finally, countries have to spend immensely on security of athletes and spectators if there is a high risk of terrorist attacks and other threats.

In conclusion, I firmly believe that hosting international sports events is indeed good for the country for diplomatic and political reasons. Foreign revenues, sports awareness

and betterment of their athletes are furthered as well. However, the host should be able to meet the standards of organisation and should be able to fund the entire project without affecting its allocation of budget for the basic needs of its population.



11. **Some say that the government should stop supporting the professional sports activities and the cultural performances, and instead begin supporting schools to encourage children to take up sports and arts.**

Discuss and give us your opinion.

Adequate attention to sports and cultural activities apart from academics is essential for the all round development of children. This is the reason why governments support professional sports and cultural performances. Some sections of the population believe that this should be the responsibility of the schools and not of the government who should support the schools instead of individuals. I agree with the view but only to an extent.

There are some reasons behind this. Firstly, it is difficult for individuals to access governmental support. If the aid comes to the school it is much easier for the students to gain from it. Secondly, it is simpler at the level of the school administration to determine genuine candidates from those who are not serious. But if the aid directly comes from the government there is a greater chance of it falling into wrong hands. Thirdly, schools use the fund to build sports infrastructure which can benefit not one but many aspiring professionals.

On the other hand, government aid becomes essential at the international level of professional sports and cultural events. To begin with, it is difficult for educational institutions to undertake the expenditure involved at this level and thus, support from the government is absolutely essential if we want medals at the Commonwealth, Asian or Olympic Games. Also, cultural groups go to perform in many foreign countries and without institutional support, such trips would be very difficult to make. Finally, governments can gain long term benefit in terms of attracting tourism and thus, they support such activities.

In conclusion, I feel that when it comes to day to day sporting activities then the government should extend support to schools rather than individuals. But at the level where a sport or cultural performer represents a country, governmental support is absolutely essential.



12. **Some people believe that personal happiness is directly related to economic success. Others argue that happiness is a kind of personal feeling and has nothing to do with one's financial status.**

Discuss both viewpoints and give your own opinion.

It has been said for centuries that money can buy countless things but it cannot buy happiness. This saying is often challenged by many and has been proved incorrect at times as well. However, it is indeed true that financial success is not the only parameter to measure one's happiness.

There are plentiful reasons why happiness does not directly depend on economic status. First, I would like to quote a survey conducted by the United Nations a few years ago on happiness and according to that, people of Bangladesh were the happiest and people of the USA were somewhere near the bottom of the list. Now, this survey not only challenges, but defies the belief of those who consider money as a parameter for happiness. Moreover, happiness is a feeling that can come as a reaction to the surroundings or some activities or it can be a state of being for some, where it is constant and does not depend on any external situations.

I think true happiness is a state of being and not a momentary, short-lived reaction, which depends on the outer circumstances and economic status. In this context, any reaction that is particular to a situation is bound to cease with time. Consequently, the happy feelings associated with the same will end as well. I would like to share my experience when I bought my first car; I was ecstatic and overjoyed but I stayed in that state of mind only for a few days.

On the other hand, it is also believed that people become happy when their needs, expectations and luxuries are satisfied. To add to it, we come into this world to acquire

wealth and as a wealthy man enjoys a privileged life, it is commonly perceived that to gain comfort and luxuries and finally happiness, money is compulsory.

I believe that real happiness can never be attained by money because it is short lived and vanishes soon. True happiness is a state of being, which is beyond monetary gains and wealth.



13. Considering the problems of pollution and traffic jams, some people argue that cars should be banned from centre of big cities.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of it.

Also, suggest what actions can be taken to solve this problem.

Downtowns of metropolises are usually historic city centres the roads of which are narrower and the habitation is denser as compared to the new urban development. Thus, vehicular movement here is far more congested. My opinion is that we need to find a middle way as banning cars completely is not very feasible and allowing them at all times can be very difficult also.

Banning cars from entering this area can resolve a lot of problems such as frequent traffic jams, pollution, accidents, the stress of driving in such congested environs etc. Also, there are many historically important sites which are at risk when pollution levels rise or when there is a higher chance of impact from accidents.

Yet, a car is a comfort vehicle which takes one right from the boarding point to the exact destination. To park it somewhere on the way and take another transport or walk to the city centre would be very uncomfortable for most city dwellers. Also, people not being able to drive right to the footstep of a shop or a market might mean that there is reduced customer flow.

Therefore in this case a sheer black and white solution is not possible and we need to take the middle path. One option could be that there are fixed hours every day during which cars can enter the downtown, thereby limiting their presence in there. Secondly,

specific arteries could be identified where cars are allowed and adequate parking should be provided in such a way that from these carefully picked nodal points most areas of the downtown are accessible. Thirdly, a possible solution could be that there is a public transport system with very frequent service specifically for the downtown area, at the peripheries of which there are comfortable parking lots. People can park the car, board the transport and thereby much less time and comfort is thus compromised.



14. Some people say that self employment is better than a job in a company or an institution.

Discuss both modes of work and give your opinion.

Owing to innovations in industries and education systems, we can see enormous opportunities for the people to pursue. However, there is a debate whether one should opt for a job or believe in self employment. In my opinion, self employment holds the upper hand in this debate.

There are many reasons why self employment is better over a job. First and foremost is the immense growth opportunity it offers. A self employed professional because he is the leader of his business can determine his own growth chart. The second benefit of the same is freedom. In our own business, we get the freedom to explore and to experiment with new ideas in accordance with the trends in the market.

Lastly, our business gives us independence. We are free to make certain changes in the policies of business and can take the liberty of pursuing personal, social or family related responsibilities as we do not depend on the permission of anyone. Also, one is answerable only to self.

On the other hand, jobs do have certain benefits. One of them is security and safety. We get a fixed salary and the income is secured as far as we are employed. This means, we do not have to worry about ups and downs in business and meeting our overheads. Another benefit is less stress. Once we are home, we can be totally relaxed without any burden of work.

All in all, it seems that jobs do offer some safety and reduced stress. However, considering the freedom and opportunities of growth that lie in business, my personal opinion always goes in favour of self employment.



- 15. Some people think robots can improve human life in future; while others think robots may affect society in a bad way.**

Discuss both viewpoints and give your opinion.

Robots have been hailed as one of the most fascinating scientific inventions in the history of mankind. These days, we can see robots doing almost everything a human can and the future seems to belong to them. However, as each invention comes with its positive and negative implications, I would like to ponder upon both before giving my verdict on the same.

First, if I consider the benefits we can get out of robots, I must say that they have been indeed a blessing for millions. These days, robots can work in conditions where humans find difficulty in giving their best. For instance, from manufacturing to surgery, there are numerous work conditions that demand consistency, accuracy and precision. It is proven that robots have outperformed humans in most of them. Moreover, robots can certainly reduce manpower expenditure because they do not need allowances, perks, incentives and additional fringe benefits. All they need is proper maintenance and they can work incessantly.

On the other hand, letting robots take over all the work has its own drawbacks. One of them is technical troubles that we may face. It is obvious that robots are machines and any malfunction can cause unimaginable damage and in medical procedures, a fraction of error can be fatal. Second important disadvantage is creation of unemployment. If robots take over all the jobs, skilled labours will be jobless and that may have hazardous social implications.

Finally, I think robots are indeed useful in certain conditions. However, they can be dangerous if they underperform. I believe that robots are and will be needed by humans and they can be fruitful to us provided they are maintained properly.



- 16. Some people say that parents have the most significant influence in a child's development. However, others say that things like television or friends have the most important influence on them.**

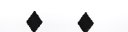
Discuss both views and give your opinion.

It is said that parents are the first teachers of a child in life and so they seem to have the maximum influence on their children's life. However, some argue that these days, children are under higher influence of friends and television. It seems to me that parents' influence outweighs other factors in the development of the offspring.

There are many reasons why parents' impact is very high on children. To initiate, parents are the first human contact for any child. Henceforth, their words, emotions, behaviour, culture and lifestyle shape the personality traits of the kid. This happens so because the child's mind is like a plain canvas. Whatever is printed or painted on it stays there for a life time. Moreover, the child's first words, first steps, first tears and first smile happen in front of his parents. He or she learns how to see the world with the help of his parents and so their influence is bound to be the highest.

On the other hand, some people say factors like friends and television have stronger influence on children's minds. They say that after a certain age, children pay more attention to their friends and spend more time watching television and playing with friends. They also say that friends and television are able to influence anyone's mind, and so, a child's tender mind is bound to be affected to a greater extent.

Conclusively, it is true that the impact of TV and friends can be more at times in some cases. However, I firmly believe that parents' influence is the strongest on any child's mind compared to any other person or media.



- 17. It is said by some that museums are meant for entertainment. On the other hand, some people say that they are only meant for education.**

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Some people perceive a museum as a place where ancient, historical and rare articles are preserved. However, to me, museum is a place that connects the present to the past. Hence, in this context, the predominant purpose of any museum is education and not entertainment.

There are numerous reasons to support this notion. Firstly, museums are the only place where antique and historical articles are preserved. Thus, if anyone wants to gain access to our past, he or she has to only visit a museum. This information is not available anywhere else. Secondly, when we visit any museum, we get instantly connected to the culture or the lifestyle of the past. This not only makes us aware but also educates us about the past.

Finally, all articles preserved in the museum do contain all available information on them for the visitors. This feature facilitates lots of students. For example, when I was a child, I had a hard time in understanding some historical events. However, I then visited a museum where I gained all the knowledge which I had not been able to acquire from my history teachers.

On the other hand, some people say that many people feel entertained when they visit museums. They add that museums should offer more and more facilities that can entertain visitors as they are the places which contain things that are no longer useful in the present.

All in all, even though some find museums a place to amuse and refresh people, I firmly believe that museums hold the link between today and the yester times and hence, museums ought to be used for education only.



- 18. Do children behave better when they are rewarded or when they are punished?**

Discuss both views given and offer your own opinion.

Issues like ways of bringing up children are always open for a debate as people keep putting forth their differing views all the time regarding such topics. Some say that chil-

dren become more disciplined if they have the fear of punitive actions. However others say children behave better if they are positively rewarded. It is true that you reap what you sow.

There are several reasons why children should not be punished. First, science has now proved that almost all actions taken by humans in this world are based on some expectations. It is also seen that when children do not get the desired attention, they are inspired to do something that forces others to notice them. In order to inculcate traits of better behaviour in their tender minds, we must stop punishing them and start rewarding. Second, when any action of children is rewarded positively, they start understanding the importance of good behaviour. It is one type of psychological conditioning where they comprehend the significance of strength of character. Finally, better rewards always satisfy their needs of love, which, in turn, gives immense confidence, courage, maturity and responsibility. All these traits are essential in moulding better citizens of the world.

On the other hand, some people often say that punishment is the best way to prepare children for better behaviour. They add that punishment is highly effective in training young minds because the fear will certainly not let them behave in a bad manner. Moreover, certain children are highly notorious; they can be trained properly only if they are under some threat.

All in all, I firmly believe that punishment is like taming and reward is like grooming. Its grooming that differentiates a human from an animal. It has to be understood that we are here to be groomed and not to be trained or tamed.



- 19. Some people think that national news is very important and they stay up-to-date with national news. However, some say international news is more important and we should stay updated with that.**

Discuss both points and give your view.

News is indeed an important aspect of our everyday life. Its importance cannot be described or valued on any scale because it is a type of knowledge and all knowledge is

invaluable power. In this regard, some people prefer international news over national. I think both have their importance but one should always be concerned more about what is happening in one's own country.

There are many reasons why I think domestic news is more relevant than international happenings. Firstly, all of us are largely affected by the events that happen around us. These events can be political, climatic, civil administration related, or of business and economy. All these events affect us to some extent depending upon our type of work or business. Secondly, we can take our everyday decisions based on the news updates. For example, if the weather forecast predicts heavy snowfall or rainfall, we can change our route or modify timings of our work or leisure trips. Finally, it is observed that events that happen around us contribute in shaping our lifestyle and our socioeconomic status as well.

However, in certain cases, some people do need to pay more attention to international news. To begin with, people who work in or have a business that is highly sensitive towards international events i.e. foreign exchange dealings, stock markets or news channels etc. have to be informed about the same. Even people like me who work as visa consultants are affected by changes that various countries introduce in their immigration or student visa policy, have to stay up to date regarding overseas news as.

All in all, although, some peoples' work expects them to keep a close eye on international news, it is necessary for all of us to stay in touch with local news.



20. Some parents think computer games are better for children and they should be allowed to play more of them. Whereas some parents argue that they are harmful to children.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Today's children are bombarded by countless versions of video games, be it on the mobile, tablet PC, a computer or a laptop. This development has generated two schools of thought: one in support of the technologically powered games and one in opposition. However, my inclination is towards those who oppose.

Computer games are indeed harmful to children in numerous ways. To begin with, computer games compel children to sit at one place and play for hours. This can have adverse results in the long run as sitting postures of almost all children are not healthy and accurate. Moreover, incessant exposure to a computer screen is harmful to their tender and young eyes and we all know the possible consequences if one's eyesight gets affected at a very young age.

Furthermore, computer games also oblige children to stay alone and prevent them from interacting with their peers or others. This is egregious as children miss out on important lessons of socializing. Finally, most children either stay hungry for a long time or overeat while playing games as they do not really pay attention to this aspect of their being. Such unhealthy food intake can lead to multiple health problems for them.

However, some parents support the idea of their children playing computer games. They say that computer games help children to get tech savvy at an early age. Next, they add that it helps children to develop their psychological strength and general intelligence. Finally, they assert that such digital entertainment is safe as children do not have to step out of their homes.

Conclusively, I opine that computer games are an evil that can certainly harm young children and can physically and mentally weaken the youth of the future. So, according to me, children should never be motivated to play computer games.



21. Some believe elderly people should live in nursing homes, others think they should live with the family members.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

We live in a world that is constantly transforming and in turn we are modifying our lifestyle, culture, customs, traditions and family systems. It is also true that not all the changes are good and some of them are indeed very unwelcome. The notion of some short sighted people that aims at keeping the elderly in nursing homes is nothing but a result of a self-centred and negative mindset.

There are enormous benefits of elderly people living with the younger family members. To begin with, they have wealth of knowledge, experience and skills. As a result, they can be extremely helpful to the youth of the family when any trouble arises. Next, they can shower the warmth of their love and emotions on the youngsters. In today's stressful and highly competitive life, such love is a boon for a young life burdened with daily strife.

Thirdly, elders can work as a guardian angel for the working youth and the children in their family. Elders not only take care of the children but also help them in learning the lessons of morals and ethics in their early age. Finally, older people also help the society by offering their voluntary help to their family and community. By doing so, they keep themselves engaged with some activity, that yields them respect and satisfaction.

On the other hand, some people argue that confining the elderly to nursing homes may be a better idea. They assert that many families have conflicts because of the generation gap and that problem can be eliminated easily. Next, youngsters can concentrate and dedicate their earnings to themselves as they do not have any old person in the house to look after. However, this system sends a wrong message to the community that elderly people are a burden and so they should be caged to such places.

Finally, after assessing both the sides, I opine that the idea of keeping the elderly in nursing home is abominable. I see more benefits of them living with their family rather than spending lonely, depressing hours in aged care homes.



- 22. Technological and scientific advances are changing the food people eat. Some believe that these changes can be harmful to the health of people. Others challenge this.**

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

As we all are living in the most advanced technological era, all the aspects of our day to day life are influenced by science and technology. Hence, the food we eat has been transformed to a great extent with the help of new technology. In the coming para-

graphs, I am going to discuss drawbacks and benefits of impact of technology and science on food with respect to the health of consumers.

Enhancement of technology has always helped in deepening the understanding of the food that we eat. We can explore the nutritive value, medicinal applications, mutual compatibility and shelf life of raw or finished food products with the help of technology. Moreover, we can plan and prepare better, resulting in healthier and tastier recipes that can be customized to the needs of the target consumers. Furthermore, particularly healthy food options can be searched and made available to the people who are in medical need of the same.

On the other hand, it is often argued that technology can make the food tastier but not healthier. This is not wrong in many cases across the world. For example, consumption of hamburgers, potato chips and popcorns is rising. However, it was found in the USA that the synthetic chemical used in popcorns to enhance its taste can be a potential carcinogen*. This can be extremely dangerous for the health of people who consume such products. In addition, introduction of science and technology has prompted food businesses to focus on the taste buds of consumers to enhance the sale and for the same, they add excessive amounts of salt, sugar and other synthetic chemicals that are not good for our health.

All in all, advancements in technology have always had noble intentions. However, it is the profit oriented use of technology which motivates some people in modifying food. Hence, I opine that judicious and noble applications of technology must always be entertained as they are for the good of the people.

* Carcinogen = a substance that can cause cancer



- 23. In many countries, a prison sentence is considered as the best way to decrease crime. However, education is often argued as a more effective way.**

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

OR

In most countries, imposing a prison sentence is the most common solution when people commit a crime. However, if they were to receive better education, it could prevent them from becoming criminals.

Discuss and give your opinion on the same.

Education has been presented as an alternative to imprisonment by many for the last few decades. The debate has become intense with time. However, looking at the current scenario, imprisonment is still more effective in reducing crime.

There are ample reasons for this. One of them is, imprisonment allows the criminal to stay alone and with himself, and this is a great opportunity for anyone to introspect and change himself. Secondly, such penalty is a strong message to those who may be thinking of committing a crime. I think fear of being caught and confined in a jail is the most effective tool in controlling such tendencies. Finally, putting the convict behind bars is also a way of justifying the pain, hardship and troubles faced by the victim. Otherwise, if the convict is simply educated and counselled to not to commit crime, the victim may lose faith in the judicial system of the country.

On the other hand, education is backed by some as an option for criminals. First, education inculcates the correct morals and importance and benefits of a crime free society in the minds of the criminal. Secondly, it is also seen that most criminals are illiterate and unemployed. Therefore, offering education and certain skills will surely help them in leading a life with self respect. However, it is also seen that a major chunk of criminals these days are well educated. Thus, it is evident In conclusion, I firmly believe that education is not as effective a way of reducing crime as imprisonment is. Had it been at all the case, the governments would have already converted all prisons into schools.

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- 24. Zoos should be merely meant for entertainment or should there be some other purpose also?**

Discuss and give your opinion.

In the past zoos served the facility of bringing the wildlife to the cities for the entertainment of people who could not go to the forest to see them. With time zoos are being equipped with newer roles to play not only for the animals but for the society as well.

There are three important purposes that the zoos can serve other than entertainment. First, they should serve as an education centre for the children. By visiting zoos children can understand the wildlife. They can be taught the importance of animals as the role of each in the ecosystem is brought to light.

A second purpose that can be fulfilled at the zoos is the setting up of a facility of research and development. Nowadays many zoos are being used to breed endangered species to prevent them from becoming extinct. In addition, the zoos can be used to cross breed animals to produce a genetically stronger offspring that can survive longer. On the top of it, new medicines and vaccines can also be prepared to protect them from various diseases, which is a great contribution to the veterinary science.

Finally, zoos offer safety to the animals. Animals are protected in the zoos from various natural threats such as natural calamities like fire, droughts, floods and their predators etc.

All in all, according to me zoos have great potential to transform their role from place for entertainment to a place for education, research and development and a safe home for animals. I think governments should come forward to transform the zoos to improve their perception and importance in the society for the benefit of animals and the nature.

◆ ◆ ◆

- 25. In many countries the proportion of older people is increasing. Does this trend have more positive or negative effects on the society?**

Discuss and give your opinion.

The proportion of older people is rising in many countries because of numerous revolutionary inventions in the field of medicine and technology. We have made health care effective, in reach and more efficient. This has contributed in increasing the lifespan of people.

Rising numbers of old people can have many adverse effects. Such effects can be divided into three main categories in my view. First is expenditure. As the age progresses, the human body becomes more vulnerable and prone to diseases. This leads to higher expenditure on health care. Moreover, the monetary rebates and perks given to them are also high like pension, discount in public transport, relaxed tax norms and so on. Governments have to increase the tax burden on society to compensate the expenditure they incur for taking care of the old.

Second is employment. Higher density of old workers prevents young workers in getting jobs and promotions. Because of this, the rotation of vacancies stops. This increases unemployment in young people and therefore has hazardous consequences. Third is crime. It is observed that old people save money for the last stages of their life thereby becoming soft targets of criminals as many of them stay alone. In many countries, we can see that incidents of old people being attacked and sometimes even killed for money are increasing these days. Police departments have to invest considerable energy and money in solving such cases.

However, an older population can be useful to the society also. Firstly, they are helpful at home in routine work and bringing up children. Secondly, they also offer voluntary help to the society in many administrative aspects. Finally, by sharing their experience they prevent the society from many harmful things.

To sum up, I think there are more disadvantages of rising density of old people. However, by utilizing their abilities in creative and constructive ways, societies can compensate the expenditure incurred and also help them to lead a better life.



26. Zoos are sometimes necessary but are a poor alternative to the natural environment.

Discuss arguments for and against keeping animals in zoos.

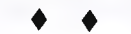
Owing to spread of industries worldwide and accompanying deforestation, climate patterns in the world have been changing drastically. This has made zoos an essential

option for the survival of animals. It is an inevitable change and we as a society have to take necessary actions favouring animals.

Keeping animals in zoos offers numerous benefits. First is safety. Animals are protected against all natural calamities like fire, floods and droughts. In addition, they are also safeguarded against their killer species. What is more, they live under the supervision of veterinary doctors who take care of their health, give regular checkups, medicines and vaccines to protect them against diseases and disorders. Next, they also get better quality food in zoos because governments take the responsibility of zoos and provide necessary funding also. Finally, zoos prevent many animals from going extinct, as they breed successfully in a controlled environment.

However, there are also some drawbacks. First, animals live in an artificial environment. They lose their freedom and hence they also lose their natural abilities like hunting, reproduction, tree climbing and so on. Here, the saying, 'A hut of independence is far better than the golden cage' is applicable to them. Secondly, human interference also disturbs them a lot.

To sum up, it is true that animals lose their freedom when they are kept in zoos. However, I strongly believe that they get better protection in zoos where they can live longer; otherwise, they are vulnerable and would succumb to climatic changes without human assistance.



27. Some people say that children should learn all the subjects equally. Whereas others think that they should only learn what they are interested in.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

It is evident that students do not have equal interest in learning all the subjects they study. Some people say that they should study all the subjects equally. However, others argue that children should only study the subjects of their interest.

Those who say that students should study all the subjects in same proportion support

their view with two main arguments. First, equal study of subjects gives thorough knowledge of all disciplines to the students. It is significant because now we have faculties that require acquaintance of a combination of subjects. For example in bio-informatics, student must be good at biology, mathematics and electronics. Finally, globalization obliges many economies to change and new fields are emerging. New fields often offer extremely rewarding remuneration scales. What is more, they are more adventurous and exciting. If students have studied all the subjects, they can promptly switchover to novel fields and can have a lucrative and productive professional life.

On the other hand, some people argue that children should study only the subjects of their liking. They say that when a student studies subjects of his interest, his understanding and grip over that discipline is often miraculous. They add that only these students can become great scientists or researchers and can reach the top. They also assert that people on top never need to change their vocation because they are the most successful and satisfied professionals in the world.

In the summary, I believe that both study of all subjects equally and study of only subjects of interest are not good notions individually because neither all students learn all disciplines equally nor all students can become top professionals. Hence, I assert that at the early stages we should teach all subjects to develop competence and at a tertiary level, they should be offered a choice to specialize in fields of interest.



28. Some children have to live at different places during their childhood because of transferrable jobs of their parents.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of living in different places in childhood and give your opinion on whether it is good or bad to stay at different areas for children.

Living life in different places during ones growing years is always full of a variety of influences. Such exposure is very important at a tender age because childhood lays the foundation of the entire lifespan of a person and if it is open to such varied experiences, one's life is bound to be enriched.

Spending childhood at various venues offers many benefits. First, children in such a situation always experience a multicultural neighbourhood, which makes them expressive and extrovert in nature. In addition, interacting with different people enhances their communication skills, confidence and understanding of different cultures, races and languages.

Second, children evolve an adaptive body. They learn to easily adjust to differing environments and hence their body evolves higher immunity for varying climates and seasons. Finally, such children, when become adults, can take up any job that requires extensive travelling like marketing or a position in the media. Their smart communication skills can open avenues of call centres or public relations jobs for them and thus they can avail the advantage of their multi-regional, multi-cultural and multi-lingual exposure.

However, it has some drawbacks also. First, such children remain self-centred, as they generally do not have a close friend circle owing to the frequent changes of locale. Second, their exposure to various cultures at times confuses them, resulting in the loss of their indigenous culture. Finally, their study is the worst hit because they have to change schools frequently, which requires a lot of effort from them to adapt and yet perform better at different schools.

To summarize, living in different places does enhance the personality of a child. However, at times, rapid and frequent changes in accommodation may have some adverse effects on children. Hence, I assert that changes in the area of residence should be admitted only in unavoidable circumstances.



29. Should young children be encouraged to follow a strict set of rules based on culture and tradition or should they be allowed to behave freely?

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Since ages, there are divided opinions in different cultures regarding the ways to bring up children. Some always back the strict and religious set of rules whereas others always defend freedom from such rules and advocate giving a free reign to children. It

seems that the time has now come that we should step out of traditional boundaries.

Strict sets of rules often kill creativity and inhibit individual development. We all are different and we come in this world with different abilities. Now, if similar cultural or religious rules apply to all, it is discouraging indeed. In addition, such compulsion often forces people to rebel against the set up. Those who rebel may reach great heights in their lives like Jesus Christ, Gautam Buddha, Swami Vivekanand, Salman Rushdie, Freidrich Nietzsche and so on. Vice versa, those who cannot break free against the confinements of stringent set of religious and cultural protocols of behaviour often get repressed and live a doomed life.

On the other hand, freedom gives birth to creativity. It also promotes faster individual growth and, contrary to most who believe that freedom makes people irresponsible, I think liberty can inculcate virtues of responsibility at a faster pace in our minds. However, a minute proportion of people may misuse the freedom for negative purposes but they cannot be used as example to limit opportunities for a whole lot of other people.

Finally, I agree that freedom gives more opportunities to grow in life. Provided children are prevented from hurting anyone, they should be given as much freedom as possible.



- 30. Some people feel that the design of newly constructed buildings in big cities should be controlled by governments. Others think those who spend for the construction should be given freedom to design the building as they wish.**

Discuss both viewpoints and give your opinion.

The field of construction has seen dramatic transformations in the last few decades. We have seen skyscrapers in almost all the countries, along with that, a breed of people have come into existence who want complete control over the design of the building. Both sides of this demand are discussed in the following paragraphs.

Governments ought to regulate the construction and design of all the buildings that are under construction to ensure a coherent urban environment. Also this seems to take

care that certain essential safety measures are observed and followed by the constructors. And, it's the government's duty to ensure that standards of Floor Space Index (FSI), space for parking, elevators, arrangement of fire safety system, water supply, availability of basic facilities, sanitation and so on are met.

Apart from such regulations, I think the owner should be allowed to design the building as per his or her needs. It may be possible that some people have specific needs related to the purpose of the building and such intentions must be respected by the authorities. Imagine, if such freedom was not given in the past, a building like the Opera House of Sydney might not have been constructed. Finally, it is fortunate that these days, owing to such freedom, we can see buildings like Burj Khalifa in Dubai.

All in all, I assert that if the safety and regulatory measures are respected, governments must provide freedom of design to those who fund the cost of construction of any building. I think such independence is a fundamental right of every citizen.



- 31. The world of work is changing rapidly. Employees would not be able to depend on the same job or same working condition for a long time in the near future.**

Discuss the cases of rapid change in world of work and how people can be prepared for the future.

It is a fact that our work and working conditions have changed a lot and they will be changing at an even greater pace in the future. There are few competitive people who shall be able to adapt to these changes. However, others do need specific training to survive in these circumstances.

Because of globalization, companies want fast growth. This has forced the world of work to transform to a great extent. First, the types of jobs and qualifications required have changed. Now, we should have higher qualifications and should be prepared to work longer hours to survive in today's working conditions. Second, to attain fast growth, companies implement various strategies that require a lot of skills in employees. Third, implementation of technology has made significant changes in the way people work.

Today, we can see a person sitting in India and working for a company located in USA. In addition to this, mobility in the job is also higher as present day employees travel widely during their job.

It is also true that only a competitive person survives in the changed world of work. However, there are many ways by which we can increase the pool of skilled and competent workers. To start with, they must be taught English, as it serves as the basis of new learning and becoming competent. Moreover, management skills like time management, interpersonal and communication skills, marketing and customer care skills etc should be imparted to ensure a better output from the employee. Finally, employees must be made tech savvy. The knowledge of computers and its applications including the Internet must be imparted.

In conclusion, according to me, there are enormous changes in today's work environment. However, by inculcating efficient training programs, we can prepare today's employees for the future growth and create a progressive work culture.



- 32 Some people believe that those moving abroad should try to adapt themselves to the new cultures. While some think that there is no need to do so.**

Discuss and give your opinion.

It is indeed an important social issue being debated on an international level that whether migrants should adapt to local cultures or not. It appears that to merge into the host culture and to adapt to the local climate proves to be more fruitful.

Adapting to the local cultures is beneficial in many ways. First, migrants understand the host culture and religion, which enhances their intellectual growth and tolerance. Second, they can develop better social and professional contacts which are of immense assistance in getting a good job or support in other necessary requirements of surviving and growing in a new setting.

Finally, migrants who have merged with the host cultures can have an overall satisfac-

tion of living in a foreign country. This is extremely important in developing a global community of skilled people.

On the other hand, some people argue that we should never forget our ethnicity and never leave our culture as it is the original identity of any individual. Moreover, in most countries, skilled people work very hard and thus cannot spare enough time to interact socially with many people. It might affect or distract them from their work too.

All in all, I believe in a popular saying, "In Rome, do as Romans do." I do not insist that we should simply leave our culture behind, but, if we want to settle in a foreign country, we must adapt to the local cultures in such a way that we face no hassle in settling there. At the same time we should be able to nurture our ethnicity and continue to take pride in our traditions.



- 33. Some people believe that immigrants should adopt the local culture when immigrating to a new country. An alternative view is that they can adapt to a new environment by establishing a minority community.**

Discuss these two views and give your opinion.

Immigration has always been one of the important aspects of the human life on this earth. These days, we see lots of people immigrating to different countries for varied reasons. This has caused a huge debate on whether immigrants should adopt the culture of the host country or not. It seems to me that one has to be flexible enough to survive and grow in a foreign country and at the same time one has the responsibility to preserve one's traditions and pass it on to the next generation.

It is said, 'In Rome, do as the Romans do'. There is no doubt that when immigrants adopt local culture, their life becomes easier as they go with the flow of their surroundings and show no resistance to embracing change. This helps immigrants to get a warm response from the host country which, in turn, helps them to establish businesses and settle down, eventually rising into prosperity. Also, it is not only about financial growth but warmth and friendship are essential for a happy life in a foreign location.

However, an individual is always known by his culture and if he loses it, he loses his identity as well. Therefore adjusting to a foreign culture should not mean that one breaks all ties with ones past. This can have negative psychological implications and even the coming generations shall not inherit a history that immigrants brought with them. Also, the ties of one's culture are that which bring about the feeling of community within immigrants, therefore giving a sense of security in a foreign setting.

Thus said, according to me, it is of prime importance to accept the culture of a foreign country in order to settle down there. However, one should also be careful of the possible consequences of extremity in this regard and therefore maintain a healthy equilibrium of both cultures in life to stay psychologically and socially happy.



- 34. In some countries students who misbehave have to leave the school and are not allowed to continue their education. In other countries they can return to their studies after a suspension period.**

Discuss both options and give your opinion.

Unacceptable behaviour of some students is a problem that schools all over the world deal with. In some cases the punishment is really harsh where the student is made to leave school and not allowed to continue his or her education any further. At other places students are suspended for a while and then accepted back in the school. I believe in the second method, that is, students should only be suspended as a punishment and not disallowed all together.

Suspension is a punishment period where firstly the child learns the difference between right and wrong. Secondly, he or she repents the actions and sees the pain it causes to the self and to family members. Thirdly, once they are accepted after suspension they feel confident that they have a second chance to prove themselves.

In the case where the student has to leave school and is not allowed to study any further there is a great risk of ruining his life and academic career. The child may have committed a mistake, but, to not give him another opportunity would be a very strict punishment. There are some extreme cases where some children are repeat offenders and do

not learn from successive punishments. In this case they need psychiatric help and counselling and may be even special institutions to train them. Thus, the mainstream school system may not accept them but there are other options for them to learn and become better individuals.

Therefore, I believe that just because a very small percentage of student offenders need special care, it does not mean that we harshly punish all those who make mistakes. Suspension for a period is a much better option if exercised with responsible guidance.



- 35. Some people think that politicians have the greatest influence on the world. Others, however, believe that scientists have the greatest influence.**

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Each class of human beings be it doctors, engineers, scientists or politicians have an influence on the society they live in and upon the whole world as well. In my opinion it is not possible to decide whether scientists have more influence or politicians do. We can discuss the role of both and compare and contrast their contributions but we cannot state one better than the other.

Scientists work to improve the human relationship with reality. It could be physics, biology or chemistry, in each field they constantly discover, invent and construct to make human life richer and evolved. Simple things that we take for granted like the burner in our kitchen, the washing machine or the car are a result of scientific endeavour over centuries. Very simple things like a torch or a cloth or a toothpick require industrial manufacturing processes that are based on scientific know how. Without science human beings would be as good as animals, so scientists have an immense influence on human life. Yet, there are drawbacks too. All weapons are a scientific contribution as well and the worst of all are the atomic bomb and chemical weapons that can cause mass destruction.

Politicians on the other hand decide the trajectory of nations or even regions. They

decide over financial, territorial and infrastructural issues which are the support frame of any society. Running a city administration or a country's government is a job that boasts of immense power. Thus, the influence of politicians is great even though they are at times corrupt, illiterate and hard-hearted.

Thus, in my opinion both politicians and scientists have great influence on a society or a country. The progress and evolution of humans will stop if any of these roles ceases to exist.



- 36. Some people think that it is better for a child to grow up in the countryside than in the city, others disagree.**

Discuss both views, and give your own opinion.

For a long time now migration to cities from the rural areas is a consistent phenomenon. There has been a raging debate about raising children in the countryside or in an urban environment, as a result of this. I personally feel that in the present times we should raise our children in the cities.

There are many reasons where the urban area offers more benefits. First, cities have more earning opportunities, better infrastructure and well-developed education and health facilities. Second, it is possible here to raise a child well and give him or her every possible support to enable his or her development into an intelligent and responsible human being. Third, cities are nodes of connectivity to other countries of the world. Therefore, if one grows up in an urban environment there is a good chance of being exposed to other cultures and many academic and professional opportunities may open up. As a result, the child also becomes more tolerant and accepting.

On the other hand, cities now are very polluted and overcrowded while the countryside offers a relatively peaceful and pure atmosphere. So a child shall not be exposed to the harmful aspects of urban environment here and can grow up in a secure setting. In addition, since the beginning of the school days, an urban child lives life of competition. This, at times, makes the child more self-centred and inconsiderate towards others.

To conclude, I opine that even though the villages are more peaceful and pollution free, we should bring up our children only in cities if we wish to give them a good opportunity to have a fulfilling life.



- 37. Many countries are experiencing population growth and a need for more homes. Should these new homes be constructed in the existing cities or should new towns be built for this purpose?**

Discuss and give your opinion.

Population growth is forcing many countries to build homes for the teeming millions. People want to live as close as possible to business hubs and therefore new constructions occur in suburbs of these cities. Looking at the resultant massive pressure on the city there are suggestions that new towns should be built to accommodate more people rather than constructing in existing cities. I believe that a city administration cannot follow, strictly, one path out of these two and a balanced approach has to be undertaken.

Expansion of an existing city is a good idea because it already has a functioning infrastructure and a good network of services in place. If more man-power were to join the same, the city could grow further and facilitate more variety of tasks which are not possible to accomplish in a smaller establishment. At the same time, care needs to be taken that the city is not over-burdened to an extent that it begins to break apart. Also, the government cannot only build houses but it also has to see that there is proper provision of all kinds of facilities and their regular maintenance as well.

On the other hand, building new towns is a great idea if implemented in the right manner. Each small community of people has an operative economy and some supporting infrastructure of services. If the government were to look into the industrial and or agricultural development of a place, a new township could take birth and create more jobs for people and therefore places to live in as well. Chandigarh in Punjab and Gandhinagar in Gujarat are the best examples of the same in my country.

Thus, in my opinion, both processes, that of expansion of existing cities and of building new townships goes hand in hand in the progress of a nation as it tries to make place for its increasing population.



3. COMPARE AND CONTRAST (17)

1. Now a days, people throw away old things and adopt new things.

Do the disadvantages of throwaway society outweigh any possible economic advantages?

It is general human nature that we always seek novelty. Sometimes it is genuine, however, many times it is a temptation only. Those who always adopt new things come under a rapidly growing category, called throwaway society. I think, disadvantages certainly outweigh its perceived and hypothetical advantages.

Today's throwaway society has generated many problems. Firstly, many a times we adopt new things to satisfy our never ending craze to be better and different, which leads to a loss of money. This craze also inspires us to work hard and earn more. As a result, victims of this mentality become more materialistic. In addition to this, they have to earn more to buy more, therefore, they may move away from ethics and moral values, which is a big loss in today's world.

Thirdly, throwaway society also generates a collection of waste. To manage this dump is a headache for today's governments. The dump leads to a rise in pollution. Many thrown away articles are non-biodegradable, which may affect our ecosystem. For example, many countries have been dumping such tonnage in the sea, which has had adverse effects on the marine life.

On the other hand, some economists support its perceived advantages. Firstly, they say that throwaway society helps in the growth of manufacturing, technology and research related industries. Secondly, there is a rise in employment opportunities and a growth curve is seen in the global economy. Thirdly, adoption of new things always helps us in improving our standard of life.

All in all, I believe the concept of throwaway society is certainly harmful to the world in so many ways. It has adverse effects on the social set up, ecosystem and environment. Hence, disadvantages of throwaway society outscore its perceived economic advantages.

On the other side

It is a human nature that we always want new things. Many times it is genuine. However, at times it is a temptation only. Those who adopt new things are labelled as belonging to a throwaway society. However, the merits of throwaway society are certainly higher than its demerits.

Throwaway society offers enormous economic advantages. Firstly, when we need new things, the related manufacturing industries develop with the demand. This leads to a growth in research and development. Ultimately, there is a creation of more employment opportunities that contributes to general prosperity.

Secondly, technological innovations are speeding up the invention of new products in almost all segments of the markets. We can improve our standard of living, if we are ready to switch over to new things. Finally, thrown away things can either be recycled; this makes the availability of raw materials at a cheaper rate and it also preserves the natural resources; or they can be sold at an affordable rate to the people who cannot buy new things. It helps the availability of all products across the social strata.

On the other hand, the throwaway society raises some concerns also. First, this society contributes to a collection of waste and to manage this dump is a headache for today's governments. Second, it also creates pollution. Many thrown away articles are non-biodegradable, which may affect our ecosystem. For example, many countries have been dumping such tonnage in the sea, which has had adverse effects on the marine life.

All in all, our nature to adopt new things has made our life so much convenient. I am sure that the trend towards an even better life will continue. Hence, I think, the economic advantages of the throwaway society outweigh its disadvantages.

